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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Indian Delegate Calls NPT 'Discriminatory' *[Delhi Radio]* 1

Arab-Israeli Talks

Gaza-Jericho Committee Resumes Meetings in Taba 1
Agenda Details Listed *[Cairo Radio]* 1
Talks Reach 'Crisis' Over Detainees *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1
Shahaq: 'No Problem' at Talks *[MENA]* 2
Israel Agrees to Prisoner Release *[MENA]* 2
Prisoner Release Criteria Detailed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2
Steps To Release 'All' Detainees Viewed *[MENA]* 3
Sha'th Insists on 'Full Evacuation' *[MENA]* 3
Sha'th, Shahaq Regret al-Saftawi Murder *[MENA]* 3

Islamic Affairs

Islamic Council Rejects Israel's Jerusalem Decision *[Cairo Radio]* 3
ICO's Algabid on Somalia, Bosnia, Lockerbie *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 20 Oct]* 4

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Pays Official Visit to France 21 Oct 5
Grants Pre-Visit Interview *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 5
Discusses Settlement With Israel *[Paris TV]* 7
Answers Radio Listeners' Questions *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 8
Al-Saftawi Death Casts 'Dark Shadow' Over Talks *[Jerusalem International]* 9
Hamas Statement Denounces al-Saftawi Killing *[Al-Quds Radio]* 10
Jibril on Violence, 'Arafat Assassination Plans *[Al-Quds Radio]* 10
'Ashrawi, Rous View Need for Normalized U.S.-PLO Ties *[Sanaa YOP]* 11
PLO To Hold Local Elections in West Bank *[AL-NAHAR 21 Oct]* 11
Deportees Spokesman Comments on PLO-Israel Accord *[JOMHURIYE ESLAMI 6 Oct]* 11

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Foreign Minister on Dialogue, Foreign Policy *[London MBC TV]* 13
Dialogue Committee Holds Talks With Parties *[Algiers Radio]* 15
Three Kidnapped Foreigners Found Dead *[Paris Radio]* 15

Egypt

Foreign Minister Returns From Visit to Jordan *[MENA]* 15
Musa, PLO's Abu-Mazin Discuss Jordan Visit *[Cairo Radio]* 16
Prime Minister Given Control of Airline, Airports *[Cairo Radio]* 16
Minister Urges 'All-Out' War on Terrorism *[MENA]* 16
Official Denies Dead Sea Plans Threaten Suez *[MENA]* 16

Libya

Military Rebellion, Executions Follow Coup Attempt *[KUNA]* 17
Diplomats Note 'State of Disturbance' *[KUNA]* 17
Envoy Denies Mutiny Reports *[London AL-HAYAH 21 Oct]* 17
Belgian Mediation Requested in Lockerbie Affair
[Antwerp DE FINANCIEEL-EKONOMISCHE TIJD 22 Oct] 18

Morocco

U.S.-Belgian Group To Take Part in Power Plan *[MAP]* 18

Sudan

Islamic Leader Denies Terrorist Camps *[Rome L'ESPRESSO 17 Oct]* 18
Al-Bashir Hails Revolution's Achievements *[Omdurman Radio]* 19
Kordofan Security Official Defects *[London AL-HAYAH 19 Oct]* 19
Saddam Congratulates al-Bashir on 'Election' *[SUNA]* 20

Tunisia

Ben Ali Receives Netherlands Foreign Minister *[Tunis Radio]* 20

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Interior Ministry: Narcotics Top Security Priority *[KUNA]* 21

Yemen

Reform Grouping Issues Statement After Meeting *[Sanaa Radio]* 21
Foreign Minister on Mitterrand Visit *[London AL-HAYAH 20 Oct]* 21
Prime Minister Receives Vietnamese Official *[Sanaa Radio]* 22
Official Talks Begin *[Sanaa Radio]* 22

IRAQ

Spokesman on Iranians' Visit, Future Contacts *[Baghdad Radio]* 23
Plan To Settle Palestinian Refugees Denied *[AL-RAY 22 Oct]* 23
Death Sentence Decreed for Prostitution Rings *[Baghdad Radio]* 23
London-Based Dialogue Committee Disbands *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 20 Oct]* 23
Regime Forces Reportedly Attack Southern Regions *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 24
Use of Chemical Weapons in Marshland Protested *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 24
West, UN Blamed for Failure To Stop Attacks *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 24
Civil Defense Teams Defuse 8,368 Bombs *[INA]* 25
Arab League Informed of Allied Airspace 'Violations' 25
11-12 Oct Sorties Flown *[INA]* 25
13-14 Oct 'Violations' Protested *[INA]* 25
15-16 Oct Sorties Reported *[Baghdad Radio]* 25
17-18 Oct 'Violations' Noted *[INA]* 25

ISRAEL

'Exploratory' Contacts With Iraq Under Way *[YEDIOT AHARONOT 22 Oct]* 26
Peres: 'No Intention' To Hold Negotiations *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Peres: Negotiations With Jordan 'Topmost Priority' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Shahal Reports Energy Contacts With Lebanon, Jordan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Shahal: Palestinian Women May Exit Occupied Areas *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Syrian Tourism Companies View Cooperation Prospects *[Jerusalem TV]* 26
Arab-American 'World Leader' of Hamas Military Arm *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27

Congolese Minister Holds Secret Visit To Discuss Oil *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Three Palestinians Sentenced to Life in Prison *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Test of Barak Missile Termed 'Successful' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27

JORDAN

King Addresses Royal War College Ceremony *[Amman Radio]* 28
IAF: Government Interfering in Election Campaign *[JORDAN TIMES 20 Oct]* 30
Courts Overturn Rejection of Two Candidates *[JORDAN TIMES 21-22 Oct]* 31
Egyptian Foreign Minister Musa Pays Visit 32
Prime Minister Receives Musa *[Amman Radio]* 32
King Husayn Receives Musa *[Amman Radio]* 32
King, Musa Issue Statements *[Cairo Radio]* 33
State Minister Views Musa Visit *[Cairo Radio]* 33
Egypt's Reconciliation Efforts Hailed *[AL DUSTUR 22 Oct]* 34
Qatari Amir's Brother Arrives in Amman on Visit *[Amman Radio]* 34
Al-Majali Receives Amir's Brother *[Amman Radio]* 35
King, Yemen's Salih Discuss 'Democratic March' *[Amman TV]* 35
Foreign Debt Accord Signed With Switzerland *[Amman Radio]* 35

SYRIA

Al-Asad, al-Shar' Meet U.S. Envoy Ross *[Damascus Radio]* 36
Ross Conveys Clinton Message *[Damascus Radio]* 36
Papers Discuss Ross Tour, Syria's Stand *[Damascus Radio]* 36
Press on Peace Stance, Cooperation With U.S. *[Damascus Radio]* 37

SOUTH ASIA

Iran

Deputy Foreign Minister Views Talks in Iraq *[Tehran Radio]* 39
Majles Official on Iran-Iraq Relations *[IRNA 7 Oct]* 39
PRC Envoy Views Nuclear Tests, Other Issues *[IRNA 11 Oct]* 39
Habibi Congratulates Pakistani Prime Minister *[Tehran Radio]* 41
Turkish Trucks To Need Permits To Enter Iran *[Tehran Radio]* 41
New Embassy To Open in Macedonia *[IRNA]* 41
IRNA Apology to Rowhani for 'Ambiguities' *[JOMHURIYE ESLAMI 9 Oct]* 41
Commerce Minister on Ending Customs Duties *[Tehran Radio]* 42
Aqazadeh on Investment in Oil, Natural Gas *[IRNA]* 42
Official on Program For Expansion of Ports *[IRNA]* 42

Indian Delegate Calls NPT 'Discriminatory'

BK2110045193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] India today made it clear that it is opposed to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] as it is discriminatory. Speaking at the interparliamentary conference on North-South dialogue for global prosperity at the Canadian capital Ottawa, the Indian delegate, Mr. Manishankar Iyer, said the NPT does not provide for (?vertical) nonproliferation. He said the NPT does not aim at the elimination of all nuclear weapons in the world. The conference later appointed Mr. Manishankar Iyer, as a member of the drafting committee. The committee will prepare the draft final document in the light of the debate on different subjects at the conference.

Mr. P. Upendra, MP, is leading the Indian delegation.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Gaza-Jericho Committee Resumes Meetings in Taba

Agenda Details Listed

NC2110114593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] The Gaza-Jericho Committee resumed its meetings today at the Taba Hotel. The Palestinian side was chaired by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser. The Israeli side was chaired by General Amnon Shahaq, Israeli deputy chief of staff. The two sides will discuss details relating to the Israeli military forces' withdrawal from Gaza-Jericho, the release of Palestinian detainees held in Israeli prisons, and measures to transfer civilian authority from the Israeli side to the Palestinian side.

Talks Reach 'Crisis' Over Detainees

TA2110125093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1101 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Report from Taba by Moti Amo—live]

[Text] There is a crisis in the Taba talks on the release of the Palestinian prisoners. Both sides reached a dead end in this morning's negotiations as well, and the discussion between the two delegations in the plenum hall was stopped. Major General Amnon Shahaq, head of the Israeli delegation, left the room in the company of Jacques Neriya, the prime minister's political adviser, and refused to answer our questions.

While the Israeli delegates are keeping silent, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation, came to meet the press and declared that, judging from the current state of affairs, it is impossible to reach an agreement on the release of the Palestinian prisoners because of a basic change which he believes has taken place in Israel's stand on this issue.

[Begin Sha'th recording, in English] I do not see that there will be any way we can make an agreement unless there is a basic change in the Israeli position on prisoners. We feel that its position goes against all our agreements before we came here in the Liaison Committee and in this committee.

You have to ask the Israelis why they are holding on to 13,000 political prisoners. I do not understand. Why is this to be delayed? I do not understand. Why are we haggling about numbers? I do not understand. This is supposed to be a position that will bring about an opening so that we can proceed with our difficult task. This is a matter that has been agreed upon in all our prior meetings, including the Cairo meeting. We thought that the release of prisoners would take place immediately as we come here, as a gesture of real, proper goodwill and a gesture to produce confidence. [end recording]

'Ami Gilouga, spokesman of the Israeli delegation, told us earlier that the premature media reports regarding the release of thousands of Palestinian prisoners have only created false expectations among the Palestinians and did not help the negotiations in Taba. Perhaps he was referring to the fact that, according to him, the number of prisoners to be released will be determined only here, in the Taba negotiations, and that the prisoner release is connected to development in the negotiations in general. From this we learn that there are differences on other issues as well—the civilian or the security concepts issues—which is why there has been no progress in the negotiations on the prisoner release. Before the second round of Taba talks began, Israel felt that the Palestinians would stand firm on the release issue and would drag their feet in the discussions on other matters.

[A live report from Taba by Netan'el Semrik on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1115 GMT on 21 October adds: "Amnon Shahaq, head of the Israeli delegation, told us a few minutes ago that the talks will continue. The spokesman of the Israeli delegation stressed: There is no crisis, only differences, but we are not certain we will be able to overcome them at this time. The Israeli delegation, therefore, wants to call this a difference of opinions.

["Presently, all the members of both delegations are sitting together to hear one of the Palestinian representatives outlining their security concepts for Gaza and Jericho. The subcommittee on confidence-building measures, in which the crisis took place, has stopped its deliberations, and its members are in the plenum hall. It must also be stressed that when the news of the murder of Wa'ad al-Saffawi came in—each delegation receiving it through its own channels—it only helped increase the tension in the discussions. Naturally, no one is making any accusations, but it certainly contributed to the tense atmosphere. The discussions are continuing under the harsh impression Nabil Sha'th's remarks have left."]

Shahaq: 'No Problem' at Talks

NC2110144393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1414 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 21 Oct (MENA)—Following this morning's session at the Taba Hotel, Major General Amnon Shahaq, deputy Israeli chief of staff and head of his country's delegation to the Gaza-Jericho committee, said that the negotiations with the Palestinians are continuing. He added: We will continue our discussions during the committee meetings tonight and next week.

Shahaq said that he presented ideas yesterday on the security measures that have to be taken, adding that the Palestinian side presented their views on these measures.

The Israeli official refused to talk about the issue of the Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons, but he said that "there is no problem."

Israel Agrees to Prisoner Release

NC2110160093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1421 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 21 Oct (MENA)—Israel agreed today to release a group of Palestinian detainees from Israeli jails in the next two days. This will be an initial step leading to the release of the remaining detainees.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser and chairman of the Palestinian delegation to the Gaza-Jericho Committee's meeting in Taba, told reporters following the Committee's meeting this afternoon that he hopes Israel will release the largest possible number of Palestinians in this first group to emphasize the importance of the peace process and send a message to the Palestinian people that the peace agreement with Israel is real.

Dr. Sha'th added that Israel's agreement to release this group is a step that will be followed by others according to a set timetable. He said that eventually all Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails will be released.

Noting that discussions with the Israelis over this issue took a long time, he explained that the prisoners will be divided into categories and that female detainees and old and sick prisoners will be given priority. The remaining detainees will then be released in successive groups. He pointed out that the two sides will consult with their political leaders to set the date of the first release and subsequent steps.

Dr. Sha'th and Amnon Shahaq, Israeli deputy chief of staff and chairman of his country's delegation to the Gaza-Jericho Committee, held a private, 30-minute meeting earlier today. This was followed by an expanded meeting attended by the members of the Palestinian and Israeli delegations.

The Gaza-Jericho Committee will resume its meetings next Tuesday [26 October]. Dr. Sha'th and several Palestinian delegation members have already left Taba for Cairo.

Prisoner Release Criteria Detailed

TA2110164893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1624 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Report by Moti Amir in Taba—live]

[Text] The mutual confidence-building committee ended its deliberations a few minutes ago after reaching an agreement whereby the release of prisoners will start at the beginning of next week. We do not yet know the number of prisoners that will be released and neither do the committee members, the issue is now being checked.

The agreement actually pertains to the criteria for the prisoner release. The release will be implemented gradually and continuously, according to a joint statement issued by the Israeli and Palestinian delegations. Initially, it was decided to release prisoners meeting the following criteria at the beginning of next week: prisoners who are ill, youngsters under 18 years of age, older prisoners over the age of 50, and women. The announcement was made by Jabr Fiddah, a member of the Palestinian delegation.

[Begin Fiddah recording, in English] The release of prisoners will be implemented gradually and continuous. As a first step, it was decided that prisoners belonging to the following categories will be released by the beginning of next week.
Category No. 1: Sick prisoners.
Category No. 2: Youths below 18 years.
Category No. 3: The elderly above 50 years.
And, the last category is women. [end recording]

The number of prisoners to be released is not yet known. In the next—the third—round of talks, which will begin in Taba next Tuesday [26 October], the mutual confidence-building committee will discuss other criteria for the release of prisoners that were not agreed on this evening, such as the type of crimes and prison terms.

It should be pointed out that the joint statement mentions prisoners meeting the criteria rather than all the prisoners meeting the criteria, since there are prisoners below the age of 18 and over the age of 50 who will not be released due to the type of crimes they committed.

Steps To Release 'All' Detainees Viewed

NC2110183893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1737 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 21 Oct (MENA)—The Detainees Affairs Committee, which is under the Gaza-Jericho Committee, met in Taba tonight to discuss the release of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons.

Following a 2-hour meeting, the committee issued a statement saying that the two sides discussed several confidence-building measures, including the release of Palestinian detainees.

The statement adds that the detainees will be released through a gradual process that will continue until all of them are freed.

Jabr Fiddah, Palestinian member of the Gaza-Jericho Committee who read the statement to journalists, said that the first group of detainees, which will be released in the next few days, will include men under the age of 18 or over the age of 50, women, and sick prisoners. Fiddah said that the detainees have been divided into categories that will be released in stages. He added that the Committee will meet again on Tuesday [26 October] to discuss the release of the rest of the detainees.

The statement says that both sides expressed their hope for continued progress in the talks and for an end to the violence.

Sha'th Insists on 'Full Evacuation'

NC2110173293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1637 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 21 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian delegation to the Gaza-Jericho Committee, stressed that the Palestinian side is seeking through the Committee meetings to implement the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles in a way that will lead to establishing an independent Palestinian state and the people's right to obtain their freedom, not to reoccupation of the territories or redeployment of Israeli forces in Gaza and Jericho.

Speaking to correspondents following the committee meetings in Taba this afternoon, Dr. Sha'th said that there is a difference between a withdrawal that means full evacuation of all Israeli forces and one that merely involves a redeployment of these forces. He stressed that the Palestinian side rejects any definition of security that leads to continued occupation in one form or another.

Commenting on remarks by some members of the Israeli delegation about the possible presence of some Israeli forces in the liberated areas on the pretext of maintaining security, Sha'th said that the Palestinian forces are capable of maintaining security and stability in Gaza and Jericho. He noted that the Israeli side stressed during the meetings that Israeli forces have no intention of staying in these territories.

Dr. Sha'th said that the Israelis must withdraw completely from Gaza and Jericho in accordance with the Declaration of Principles and that the Palestinian and Israeli sides must work together to achieve a prosperous and secure future for the two peoples.

Dr. Sha'th stressed that security measures in Gaza and Jericho must be seen from the perspective of comprehensive peace. He said that the Palestinians are capable of maintaining law and security in their areas after the liberation and of exercising their full authority over these areas.

The Palestinian official noted that the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles includes three appendixes that contain details concerning the full withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Gaza and Jericho, as well as bilateral cooperation. The two peoples are trying to achieve prosperity, security, and peace, he added.

Sha'th, Shahaq Regret al-Saftawi Murder

NC2110144193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1316 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 21 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian delegation of the Gaza-Jericho Committee, has expressed his regret and profound sorrow over the assassination of Asad al-Saftawi, a senior Palestinian figure in the Gaza Strip.

In a statement to correspondents in Taba today, Sha'th expressed the hope that al-Saftawi is the last victim after the establishment of peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis.

Major General Amnon Shahaq, Israeli deputy chief of staff and head of the Israeli delegation of the Gaza-Jericho Committee, also expressed his regret over the assassination of al-Saftawi, and said he extended his condolences to Dr. Sha'th on the death of al-Saftawi, who paid for peace with his life. He added that all necessary measures will be taken to end the acts of violence, which claim the lives of Israelis and Palestinians.

Islamic Affairs

Islamic Council Rejects Israel's Jerusalem Decision

NC2210074993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] The World Islamic Council for Call and Relief has rejected the Israeli Supreme Court's decision to consider Jerusalem part of Israel. The Council called on Islamic and international organizations to condemn this bogus decision and seek its repeal.

At the conclusion of its meetings in Cairo last night under Grand Imam of al-Azhar Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq, the Council affirmed that there could be no relinquishment of Jerusalem, the seat of the third holiest mosque.

The Council denounced the massacres against Muslims in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. It reiterated its continued backing for the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and denounced the massacres to which they are being subjected there.

IOC's Algabid on Somalia, Bosnia, Lockerbie

PM2110151493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Oct 93 p 6

[Interview with Hamid Algabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Abu-Husayn] What is your view of the most important decisions taken by the Cairo meeting to discuss developments in the situation in Somalia?

[Algabid] I believe that the important thing in the Somalia issue is that the role of the United Nations and regional organizations should continue. It is important and required as long as there is no Somali government there and in view of the continuation of international and and the difficulty of delivering it to the Somalis. Somalia also needs to constantly work to reconcile all the Somali factions. All this is the role of all the various organizations and states which have sent forces to or helped Somalia. We should look at the international forces' presence as a help for Somalia and the Somalis, not a confrontation with them. In my view, such an approach would lead us to a solution. Of course, the OAU has an important role to play, because Somalia is an African country. In this connection, I cite the African summit held in Cairo recently. A committee headed by the Ethiopian president has been formed to make efforts to achieve this objective. And President Mubarak, in his capacity as the president of the OAU, is following up this issue closely. We at the Islamic Conference Organization [IOC] have devoted special interest to the Somali file, supported all constructive actions in this connection, and participated in all the political and humanitarian processes concerning Somalia. But the present situation requires us to focus on the need to achieve reconciliation among the various Somali factions to pave the way for the establishment of a national authority in Somalia with which all parties can deal—an authority that serves stability in that country.

Although the United Nations has the priority in this regard and also has the material supremacy, regional organizations have a necessary and important role in helping the United Nations to avoid mistakes.

[Abu-Husayn] In your view, is General Aidid's announcement of his acceptance of a peaceful solution attributable to the talk of the withdrawal of U.S. forces in Somalia?

[Algabid] The U.S. forces went to Somalia for a specific mission, and I believe they will withdraw when this mission has been fully completed. The same applies to the other forces participating within the U.N. framework in the Somalia operation. As for Gen. Aidid's intentions, I have no information in this connection, nor can I comment on them.

[Abu-Husayn] Have there been any consultations with the parties concerned with resolving the Somali crisis with regard to what will happened if international forces withdraw before the situation stabilizes in Somalia—a situation to which U.N. Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali referred?

[Algabid] It will be very dangerous for Somalia if these international forces withdraw before completing their mission. Thus we believe that the forces' withdrawal should be linked with the completion of their mission in Somalia. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Husayn] Is there anything new in the IOC's position on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina?

[Algabid] I must first point to the efforts we have made over the past period, the visits to the permanent member states of the Security Council, and the recent coordination meeting of the Islamic states' foreign ministers, held in New York on 30 September. We emphasized our previous position, namely that no unfair solution should be imposed on the Bosnians. We also decided that the IOC's liaison team in New York—which comprises the ambassadors of most Islamic states—should step up endeavors in the Security Council and the U.N. General Assembly. We also demanded that the Security Council resolutions and the principles of the London conference on former Yugoslavia be implemented. As is well known, the Islamic states expressed their willingness to send forces to Bosnia. And we urged the U.N. General Assembly to work quickly to achieve this request. We are also demanding a U.N. presence in Bosnia-Herzegovina. That is, sending U.N. forces and making all necessary arrangements to protect the safe areas, in addition to NATO's intervention with regard to bombarding the aggressive Serbian positions.

[Abu-Husayn] But the European states are opposed to military intervention ... so what is the solution?

[Algabid] The Europeans believe they are on their own, but I believe that their position will change if Islamic and U.N. forces are sent there. When all parties—that is, European, U.N., and Islamic—are there, Europe may change its position.

[Abu-Husayn] What is the IOC's role in supporting the Palestinian-Israeli agreement?

[Algabid] There is clear support. The IOC was the first international organization to announce its support for this agreement. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Husayn] Will the IOC provide material support for the Gaza-Jericho agreement?

[Algabid] Actually, the foreign ministers' meeting held in New York recently urged the member states to provide such aid, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia announced at the Washington meeting its contribution of $100 million. We believe that the other Islamic states will follow suit. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Husayn] What is your view, on which you agreed with the Arab League secretary general, in relation to the West's dispute with Libya? Is there anything new?

[Algabid] Libya has made great efforts and responded to the two Security Council resolutions on the issue. We hope that a solution to this issue will be achieved. At present it seems that the two suspects' lawyers do not have sufficient guarantees to enable the two suspects to hand themselves over to Britain or the United States.

We believe that a trial could take place once these conditions are available. Thus we hope a solution will be found in order to end this crisis and spare Libya tougher sanctions, because these would have negative effects on the people of Libya and all the Islamic states cooperating with it.

[Abu-Hussayn] Are the contacts made so far to find a solution to the Lockerbie crisis sufficient to convince the West of Libya's position?

[Algabid] Great efforts have been exerted by the Arab and Islamic states, and I personally made contacts with Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi over this issue, and also during my visits to a number of Western states to follow up the Libyan-Western file. This is in addition to other contacts with the Security Council. We hope no new sanctions will be imposed, for the reasons I mentioned earlier. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Pays Official Visit to France 21 Oct

Grants Pre-Visit Interview

JN2110153093 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1228 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Salim Radwa and Muhammad Kurayshat in Tunis on 20 October—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Ladies and gentlemen, welcome. We are holding this interview with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in the PLO headquarters in Tunis on the eve of his official visit to Paris, where he will meet with French President Francois Mitterrand. Hello, Mr. President.

['Arafat] Hello.

[Reporter] Mr. President, what are the most important topics that you intend to discuss during your visit to France?

['Arafat] In fact, there are many topics. Relations with France—especially with President Mitterrand, the French Government, and the French people—are deep-rooted, longstanding, and strong. We always seek to promote and cement these relations on all levels. In this regard, we will never forget the French contribution during the [Israeli] siege of the Beirut through the multinational force that came to Beirut. Nor will we forget its contribution to protecting the Palestinian leadership and personnel while leaving Beirut. The same can be said about its contribution during the [Syrian-backed] siege of Tripoli. Besides, we appreciate the committed French support for the Palestinian cause and rights at all levels. From the outset, France had an effective role, not only on the French level, but also on the European and international levels. We do not forget that France supports the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. It has supported the recent peace agreement politically, morally, and economically.

[Reporter] Mr. President: You said in an interview with a French station recently that you have a great deal to say to President Mitterrand and that you are expecting a great deal from him. What are you expecting?

['Arafat] As I have already said, besides his status in France, President Mitterrand is a prestigious international and European figure. He is a man of principles in whose friendship and stands we take pride. He constantly supports humanitarian, freedom, and peace issues. There are many issues on the agenda, particularly Palestinian issues and the Palestinian-Israeli agreement that came into existence after the signing of the declaration of principles in Washington. We will raise the importance of translating this agreement on the ground accurately, honestly, clearly, and expeditiously, so that everyone will sense the importance of what has been agreed upon and so that the first Palestinian flag will be hoisted over the first Palestinian Arab territory that the Israelis evacuate.

[Reporter] Mr. President, you always note that Europe should assume a major role in the Middle East settlement. Now, that a Palestinian-Israeli agreement has been reached, what is required from Europe not only in terms of financial aid but also on the political level?

['Arafat] It is correct that economic assistance is important since it is one of the pillars that will render this agreement a success. But morale and political support is no less important than the economic support.

Europe has a geopolitics [preceding word in English] link with the Middle East. Anything that takes place here will affect Europe and anything that takes place there will affect the Middle East. We view these geopolitical relations with a scrutinizing eye on all these levels in order to strengthen our relations with Europe in all fields. When dealing with these relations, we speak about the relationship among those living around the Mediterranean in terms of history, culture, civilization, science, economy, politics, and morale.

[Reporter] With the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and the resumption of the second Taba meeting, Rabin came out with new statements that it may be difficult to implement the agreement by the specified dates. In your opinion, what are the obstacles?

['Arafat] I do not agree with him in this respect. This is because, for example, the agreement in Taba needs only for the committees to begin their work. We have formed all our committees. We have set up the Taba committee and the Jericho committee. We have set up the negotiating delegation in Washington. We have also set up the

economic delegation, and the delegation for the liaison committee, which recently met in Cairo, has also been formed. Therefore, there is no obstacle delaying or hampering the implementation of this agreement on the agreed upon date. I hope it is clear that any delay in the implementation of the agreement will have a negative impact on the entire process.

[Reporter] Mr. President: With regard to your remarks belittling the existence of obstacles, does this mean that even the differences regarding the definition of the Jericho area are not deemed obstacles?

[Arafat] There are no... [changes thought]... it is well known that the Jericho area includes the bridges, Jericho, the Dead Sea, the roads leading to Gaza—that is, a safe corridor, as well as roads leading to other areas. It must be made clear that we are not saying this haphazardly. We are depending on the minutes of the sessions held between us and them during the Oslo meetings. Any delay in handling this issue, as I have just said, will create negative effects.

[Reporter] Your Excellency President 'Arafat: You have received Dennis Ross at your Tunis headquarters. U.S. coordinator Dennis Ross deemed this a new chapter in Palestinian-U.S. ties, and even in the peace process. What is your comment on your meeting and talks with Dennis Ross?

[Arafat] I deem them important, constructive, and positive talks. These talks addressed all issues under discussion, be they Palestinian-U.S. ties, the effective U.S. role in activating the peace process, or the need for a speedy implementation of what was agreed upon in Washington. This needs to be implemented carefully, positively, and constructively on the ground. Such implementation must improve the psychological state of affairs of not only Palestinians, but also that of Arabs, Muslims, and Christians. We also discussed the role of President Clinton, who promised and honored his promise by supporting the peace process and expeditiously calling for the convocation of a donor conference that was held recently in Washington. It is true that we need much more than the amount that has been pledged so far. It must be made clear that our entire economic infrastructure was destroyed by the Israeli occupation. So, we must start from scratch in each and every area, beginning with transportation, communications, hospitals, schools, universities, an international peacekeeping force, and ending with a Palestinian peacekeeping force. There are other agreements—namely, economic agreements. You are well aware that the entire Palestinian economy is still dependent on the Israeli economy, which is an occupation economy. The Israeli economy has made improper and negative contributions, because it has exhausted all aspects of the Palestinian economy.

[Reporter] And what about the U.S. role?

[Arafat] The talks with them have stressed the importance of the United States being present with the Israeli and the Palestinian negotiators to facilitate any obstacles or difficulties that may emerge so that we will be able, as I said, to properly, accurately, and positively implement what was agreed to be implemented on the ground. This will have long term results on the Palestinian, Arab, Muslim, and Christian citizens.

[Reporter] Mr. President, the Syrian foreign minister did not rule out the possibility that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement will be a positive reflections on the whole peace process, so do you believe, in your turn, that activating the Syrian-Israeli track will be a reflection on the agreement.

[Arafat interrupting] It should be clear that this is what I spoke about with Mr. Ross, and this is what I spoke about today with the Dutch foreign minister and the same thing with Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes. I am one of those who believe in the importance of advancing the peace process on all tracks. It is true that the agreement is an agreement on principles for a transitional stage—only in Gaza and Jericho will it be a final stage—but we went to Madrid, in the first place, to conclude an agreement in Palestinians, and we went there under unjust conditions to conclude an agreement that was described as transitional. However, on the other fronts, agreements will be on final status. Therefore, the Syrian track should be activated. Likewise, the Lebanese track should be activated. I believe strongly that a just and comprehensive peace should be concluded with all Arab countries, and not only with the Palestinian or Jordanian sides. It should be reached with our brothers in the cordon states, especially in Lebanon and Syria.

[Reporter] The PLO Central Council approved the setting up of the national authority. Would you outline the features of this national authority, and the role of the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories in this authority?

[Arafat] I can say to you it is a joint role. According to the resolution of our Central Council, which is a reiteration of the Palestine National Council resolution adopted in 1974 on establishing a national authority on any part of the Palestinian soil that is liberated or from which Israel withdraws—this national authority is formed by my brothers outside and my brothers inside, leaders from outside and leaders from the occupied territories.

I pray that God Almighty will grant us success and guide our steps. For, indeed, this a sensitive and important issue. The right man in the right place, not in terms of efficiency only, but also in terms of patriotism, efficiency, and relations with popular cadres and institutions.

[Reporter] Mr. President, how do you assess your readiness now to take over after the Israeli withdrawal?

[Arafat] We will see. I think that we are fully ready. Time will prove the soundness of what we are saying. The most important point for us is for the Israelis to withdraw. Afterward, we will prove that we are able to take over, assume our responsibilities, and be in charge.

of all our future affairs at all levels. I proudly say: We have great people. God be praised, we have our own cadres, institutions, and organizations. We believe in pluralism and democracy. Everyone is welcome to take part in the responsibility, including my brothers who are opposed to the agreement, be they individuals or organizations. This is the pluralism and democracy in which we Palestinians take pride. Therefore, I say the dawn is imminent. I used to say this: The dawn is imminent, victory is imminent. The Palestinian flag, God willing, will be hoisted very soon over the Palestinian territory that will be liberated first. This means that we have established our people on the geopolitical map.

Since the 1897 Basel conference, our people have been targeted. The slogan of that conference was: A land without people for people without land. Two world wars tried to remove our people from the equation. During the World War I, our people were targeted by the Balfour Declaration and the Sykes-Picot treaty. After the World War II, there was a second attempt to abolish our people through the Yalta agreement. Now, the Palestinian people are being firmly entrenched on the geopolitical map of the Middle East and the world. They will be a partner to the building of the new world order on clear, civilized, human, and religious bases. This is in view of Palestine's significance as the land of the religions, the land in which the holy books were revealed, and the land of messengers and prophets. It is the land where Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon, performed his night journey and it is the cradle of Christ, may peace be upon him.

Moreover, we should not forget the mission of our Prophet Moses, may God's peace and blessings be upon him. Hence, I would like to say that this is the cultural message the Palestinian people have always been upholding, not only in the local or regional context, but also in the international context.

[Reporter] Mr. President, my last question is the following: World attention has, for some time, been focused on Palestine. The grave challenge awaiting you concerns the future of both peace and the Palestinian entity, which are interconnected. How would you identify the conditions for your success in meeting this grave challenge?"

[Arafat] Further democracy in the Palestinian arena is the best guarantee for what you have said. The Palestinian people have their own cadres, institutions, regulations, factions, popular and political organizations, and agencies. All these provide effective and sure guarantees for the success of this process on all levels and in all directions.

[Reporter] My last question: The relationship between the Palestinian people and the PLO on the one hand, and Radio Monte Carlo on the other is a special relationship. How would you assess this relationship at the present time?

[Arafat] I would like to say something. I would like to thank my friend, the radio's director general, for this special relationship with the Palestinian people and the Palestinian people's cause, which has been upheld by Radio Monte Carlo with honesty, fraternity, and friendliness.

[Reporter] Thank you, President Arafat. Thank you for this exclusive interview that you have granted to Radio Monte Carlo. We conducted this interview in Tunis on the occasion of President Arafat's official visit to France.

Discusses Settlement With Israel

LD2110230293 Paris France 2 Television Network in French 2000 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Interview with Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, by announcer Paul Amar, in the Hotel Crillon in Paris; 'Arafat speaks in Arabic with simultaneous French translation—live]

[Excerpts] [Amar] Mr. 'Arafat, you are speaking live from the Hotel Crillon. [passage omitted]

Mr. 'Arafat, if you are here, and if this first official visit of yours in our country can take place in such an atmosphere, it is because there is now peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis. Do you think that peace is forever? Has the point of no return been reached?

['Arafat] We have made the peace of brave men. This is what I have been calling for for some time. It was confirmed by the Palestinian National Council in 1988 when it announced a Palestinian peace initiative and the creation of two states in these territories. After that, we went to Madrid to obtain peace in spite of all the difficulties. During the difficult moments in Madrid, we used secret channels. One, the one in Oslo, was successful. It allowed us to make this big step forward toward the peace of brave men. This is what I called for many times, exactly like the peace between Algeria and France, the so-called peace of brave men. And this is the peace of brave men, between us and President [as heard] Rabin.

[Amar] Mr. 'Arafat, you shook hands with Mr. Rabin in Washington in front of the cameras from all over the world. You then met in Egypt but you did not want cameras there. What kind of relationship do you have with Mr. Rabin? Can one say that between Mr. Rabin and yourself there may one day be the same relationship that there is between Mr. Rabin and Egypt's President Mubarak?

['Arafat] I think that it will be a relationship of that kind.

[Amar] While you were in Paris, Mr. 'Arafat, a Palestinian leader, Ayad Sartawi, was killed in Gaza. We know that he was one of the people close to you. He was—with yourself—one of the founders of Fatah and carried out the peace talks with you. [passage omitted]

As I was saying, Mr. 'Arafat, Mr. Sartawi was one of your friends, like a brother.

['Arafat] Yes, I lost a friend, a leader, one of the leaders of the Palestinian revolution and of Fatah, a leader of the

PLO and a leader of peace. We're paying the price of peace but in spite of this we shall continue our work for peace.

[Amar] Who killed him, Mr 'Arafat?

['Arafat] The vampires of the right. They will be judged by the Palestinian people.

[Amar] Don't you think that in order for this peace to be a long one you will have to face difficulties? Are you afraid you may be killed? [passage omitted]

[Amar] Whatever may happen, you are committed to this peace process?

['Arafat] Of course. And, as I told you, we are paying the price of peace but we are continuing on the path of peace.

[Amar] When will you go to Jericho?

['Arafat] I hope and I think it is going to be at the beginning of next year, God willing.

[Amar] When is the Israeli army going to withdraw?

['Arafat] It should be on 14 December. Two or three months will be needed at most.

[Amar] Mr. Rabin said that there is not enough time. Could this be an obstacle?

['Arafat] I do not think that the deadlines are too near. Not much time is needed for a withdrawal. The withdrawal can take place in one week or in a month, or in 45 days or two months. We have enough time according to the agreement. The withdrawal will start on 14 December and will last two or four months at most.

[Amar] When will the elections take place?

['Arafat] They should take place in July or in August next year.

[Amar] Can you say that Palestine will be a democracy some day?

['Arafat] Yes, and we believe in a multiparty system, in a democratic life for everybody, for the opponents and for the supporters. At the Central Council's latest meeting, we did not have an unanimous decision but a majority one. The majority will always respect the minority and the minority must follow the majority. [passage omitted]

Answers Radio Listeners' Questions

JN2110205093 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Interview and call-in show with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by name the guests' Abu 'Ammar, by unidentified radio correspondent in Paris on 21 October—live or recorded, call-in questions are previously recorded from "Arab listeners in the occupied territory, Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon"]

[Text] [Correspondent] President Yasir 'Arafat, On the first day of your official visit to Paris, al-Sallam was assassinated in Gaza. You described this as a plot was out of the Elysee as a big conspiracy.

['Arafat] I [word indistinct] my brother and comrade martyr Wa'al-al-Sallam, at the beginning of my speech at the UNESCO. For me, martyr Wa'al was not a comrade in struggle only, but my comrade at school and on the path. He was one of the founders of the Fatah Movement in our occupied territory, particularly in Gaza. He was one our cadres of whom we are proud. He was one the heroes of the revolution and one of the heroes of peace.

[Correspondent] It has been said that he played an important role in conveying messages of peace.

['Arafat] Yes. And those who killed him were shooting against peace.

[Correspondent] Whom do you mean?

['Arafat] I do not know, but our people will not forgive them wherever they are. His blood will not be spilled in vain. This is Wa'al, may God have mercy on him.

[Correspondent] Abu 'Ammar, We will now present the listeners' questions. Brother 'Adnan from Ramallah.

['Adnan] This is 'Adnan [name indistinct] and Yahyal Mahmud from Ramallah. First we send greetings and appreciation to our symbol leader Abu 'Ammar. We would like to ask about the situation in which we are living amid these difficult circumstances and amid the assassinations targeting our Palestinian cadres. The question is who is responsible for this, and what is your stance on this phenomenon? May God grant you success, and God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

['Arafat] Evidently, this is a conspiracy. After they failed in what they announced and in the stubborn Palestinian fighting that they sought and after their sick dreams failed—thanks to our people's steadfastness and determination—they want to kill our people through killing our cadres with loathsome under the cover of night. However, I say that our people will not forgive them, regardless of their affiliation, whether they are backed by the Israeli enemy or other opposition forces. We know that we are paying the price of peace, but at the same time, everybody will be taken to account for what they have committed.

[Correspondent] Abu 'Ammar, do you mean the opposition forces within the Palestinian ranks?

['Arafat] I cannot say anything, especially since I received this news while in Paris, so I have not thoroughly followed up this issue. However, I can say that this is a great conspiracy, which came after all calls for inter-Palestinian fighting have failed. They have concocted this conspiracy to kill our leaders and cadres. My beloved martyr Wa'al was not an ordinary cadre; he was a leader and a founder of Fatah.

['Umar] I am 'Umar 'Arafat from the city of Lod. I would like to pose a question to Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat. First, I would like to express my appreciation and respect for the president. We heard about the meetings and conferences held by the Arab foreign ministers participating in the negotiations with the Israeli side. We also heard them talk about rejecting and accepting [the peace proposals] during the negotiations. However, we were surprised by the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles. My question is: What are the reasons and motives behind your acceptance of secret negotiations in Norway and behind your daring step? Thank you.

['Arafat] In fact, there were many channels. For example, the first channel was here in Paris between Shulamit Aloni on the one hand, and Mahmud Darwish and Hanan 'Ashrawi on the other. Other channels were with (Didi Tzoker) and Yosi Sarid; between Faysal [al-Husayni] and Peres in the occupied territories; between Ziyad Abu-Zayyad and other [Israelis]. However, all these channels used to be disclosed. When these channels were disclosed by the then Israeli enemy, they used to abort them. Thus, the channel that was not disclosed ended in success, because both sides were eager not to disclose it.

[Unidentified speaker] Hello. With regard to the Palestinian students who are studying and residing in Syria, they visited Gaza, but Israel refused to give them permits to return to Syria. What is the Palestinian government's position on this situation?

['Arafat] This could not have happened. Give me the names, and I will forward them to the Taba committee, the Gaza-Jericho Committee. There is definitely no problem on this issue. However, this is very important, and this would undermine the saying that the 1948 refugees cannot enter our Palestinian territory. I am, for example, one of the old [1948] refugees. The Palestinians in Syria are old refugees, like me. Therefore, I request this sister through Radio Monte Carlo to send me these names immediately, and I will handle this issue.

[Unidentified speaker] We want to ask our brother Abu-'Ammar about the refugees of 1948. Following the second or third stage, which they are speaking about, they will discuss the 1948 refugees. So what are the guarantees, if for example, they want to give compensations or repatriation. What if they give compensation, and people want repatriation?

['Arafat] You are asking me this question [words indistinct]. In fact, I am very sad for the martyrdom of my brother As'ad, therefore, emotionally, it is difficult for me... [sentence incomplete as heard] First of all, the agreement is clear, it deals with two kinds of refugees. The 1948 refugees—who are the old refugees, and I am one of them, and Abu-Mazin [PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas] is one of them, for example—[words indistinct] we forgot 1948 refugees. The second kind of refugees are the 1967 refugees who are the evacuees. As for the 1967 refugees a four-member committee will be set up for them. It is a Jordanian-Egyptian-Palestinian-Israeli committee that will work out arrangements for their return during the transitional stage. As for the old refugees, their subject will be discussed within a period that is no more than, not exceeding the beginning of the third year [previous phrase in English]. The resolution adopted by the Refugees Committee—whether recently in Tunis, or before that in Oslo, or earlier in Canada—was clear. We insisted that Resolution 194 be basic. This resolution calls for return or compensation.

[Correspondent] These were questions from citizens in the occupied territories. What do you finally say to all those who posed questions, and we could not convey them to you? Your time, Abu-'Ammar, did not allow us to present all questions. Since the morning, the radio's telephone did not stop receiving questions from listeners. Would you say something to those whose questions you did not answer?

['Arafat] I want to say to them that the dawn will surely come, and victory will surely be attained. Our Palestinian state, which I used to say is very close, has really become very close. When I said it is very close, many people did not believe this. They used to say Abu-'Ammar is exaggerating, but I have been forecasting the historical situation, the results of the blessed intifadah, and the results of the Palestinian people's struggle. I have also been forecasting based on the new world order, now that the Palestinian people are on the political and geographical map at the outset of this new world order that follows the third world war in all its hot and cold forms.

Al-Saftawi Death Casts 'Dark Shadow' Over Talks

JN2110173293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1614 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Telephone interview with Faysal al-Husayni, overall head of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, in Paris, by an unidentified radio correspondent, carried within the "With the Events" feature, on 21 October—live or recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni: Hello, good evening.

[Al-Husayni] Good evening.

[Correspondent] Faysal al-Husayni: You must have heard about the assassination of As'ad al-Saftawi? What is your comment on this incident?

[Al-Husayni] As a matter of fact, this incident is painful and regrettable. Brother As'ad al-Saftawi did his utmost to promote the cause of his homeland during his lifetime. Given the fact that al-Saftawi is a person characterized by great efficiency, and given the role he has played, we have been looking to see him render even more services, particularly since the process of liberation is approaching. This regrettable incident casts a dark shadow over the peace

process. Likewise, it should prompt all parties to use all means to identify the perpetrators.

[Correspondent] Abu-al-'Abd [Faysal al-Husayni]: Do you think that such incidents could undermine developments in the peace process?

[Al-Husayni] Human life is precious to us. All the incidents that have been taking place are bound to cast shadows over these developments, as I have just said. However, they might also serve as an indicator showing the need to expedite efforts to achieve an Israeli withdrawal, and also the need for the Palestinian authorities to take over in Gaza and Jericho as soon as possible so that we may bring such incidents under control, and so that we may draw up the ground rules for the completion of Israeli withdrawal from all Palestinian territories.

[Correspondent] Abu-'Al-Abd: With respect to consultations and 'Arafat's Paris visit, 'Arafat met with French President Francois Mitterrand today. Would you provide us with some details on this visit?

[Al-Husayni] This visit is important. Palestinian-French ties are well-known and clear. Moreover, the French role in Europe at present is primary. We must address this role to promote it in the interest of the Palestinians. Moreover, French-Israeli ties could help France play a positive role. During this meeting, the two leaders addressed the current state of affairs, the progress made in the peace process, and Palestinian needs—be they political or economic, regardless of whether they are required at present or later, that is, when Israeli withdrawal begins.

[Correspondent] Faysal al-Husayni, currently in France, thank you very much.

[Al-Husayni] You are welcome.

Hamas Statement Denounces al-Saftawi Killing

JN2110184093 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1750 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement [Hamas] in Palestine today denounced the assassination of As'ad al-Saftawi, who had close links with Yasir 'Arafat. The Islamic Resistance Movement said in a statement distributed in Gaza this evening: We declare our strong denunciation of such physical liquidations. The movement stressed that it is against political assassination, that it is not a method for understanding and dialogue, whether within the same Palestinian ranks or within the greater Palestinian house. The Hamas Movement called on our Palestinian people and their militant forces to confront the wicked criminals who are trying to ignite the fire of sedition in the service of the occupation.

The enemy radio said two masked armed men assassinated As'ad al-Saftawi in Gaza this morning. He had close links with 'Arafat.

Jibril on Violence, 'Arafat Assassination Plans

JN2110161193 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1110 GMT 21 Oct 93

["Text" of interview with Ahmad Jibril, the secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, PFLP-GC, by correspondents of British radio and television, carried within "The Event" program; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] [Correspondent] What are you doing now? What are the other factions doing in Damascus to oppose and topple the Gaza-Jericho agreement?

[Jibril] We do not work only in Damascus; we work in the Palestinian territory under occupation, in Jordan, in Syria, in Lebanon, and in other areas. We believe that the agreement concluded by 'Arafat is a treasonous agreement and should be confronted. Therefore, we are gathering ourselves as national factions and figures. We are in the process of establishing a national and Islamic front next week, and choosing a new leadership for the Palestinian people.

[Correspondent] You said national and Islamic front. Does this mean an organization separate from other factions?

[Jibril] We are a group of national factions and figures, and we will be part of this front to confront 'Arafat's plan.

[Correspondent] Does this mean removing 'Arafat completely from the scene?

[Jibril] We believe that toppling the agreement and its symbols means ending the humiliating and capitulationist agreement that 'Arafat signed, and also removing these symbols completely from the political scene.

[Correspondent] Let us be more precise. Do Mr. Jibril's men intend to carry out an attempt on 'Arafat's life?

[Jibril] I believe that our men are awaiting their turn. Perhaps, many people would carry out this mission before we get a chance. Thousands of martyrs' sons, wives, and families have topped the list of those wishing to do so before we did the same. We are not in a forward position for this mission.

[Correspondent] Let us be even more precise. I will repeat the question: Is there any operation being planned to kill 'Arafat?

[Jibril] I believe there is a very wide Palestinian consensus that 'Arafat has betrayed [the Palestine question], and that the people should punish him. I also believe that there are parties and individuals, which may or may not be organized, whose objective is to liquidate 'Arafat because he has betrayed and destroyed the Palestinian people.

[Correspondent] What is your plan on violence? Does your organization and other organizations in Damascus intend

to strike at Israeli targets inside and outside the occupied territories? In brief, what is your policy on violence?

[Jibril] We do not call it violence. We call it legitimate struggle and jihad. As a front, we will not abandon the armed struggle program, and we are still in a state of war with the Zionist existence on the land of Palestine. This struggle and fighting will continue until we return to our homeland from which we were expelled 44 years ago.

[Correspondent] How are the current relations between Jibril and the Syrian Government?

[Jibril] These relations are good. A short while ago, I met with the Syrian vice president. Our talks dealt with the situation of the [Palestine] cause. Why should our relations not be good?

[Correspondent] Did the recent agreement [signed by the factions opposed to the peace process] result, among other things, in increasing the number of men who are ready to fight in your faction?

[Jibril] I am not exaggerating by saying that we have thousands, and even tens of thousands, of youths who are enthusiastic about fighting with us in this phase. These youths are not just Palestinians, but also Arabs and Muslims. They are extremely enthusiastic about fighting, and they were not influenced by the agreement signed in Washington. On the contrary, this agreement has increased their insistence on fighting and martyrdom.

Next week, hundreds of fighters will graduate from our camps somewhere. These fighters were trained in these camps, and they are Palestinians, Arabs, and Muslims.

[Correspondent] Do you really believe that your forces can finish off the State of Israel?

[Jibril] We say, first, that injustices were done to us as a Palestinian people and as an Arab and Islamic nation. Injustice has been done to us since the beginning of this century. When the Balfour Declaration was made after World War I, only 30,000 Jews and approximately 1 million Palestinians were living in Palestine. As part of the international game joined by the colonialist forces and states, we discovered that after World War II, Jews were brought in from various world areas to create the Zionist entity. We believe that this is a grave injustice, and we have been paying its price for many decades. As a generation, we insist that matters should return to their previous state prior to the Balfour Declaration.

We, as an organization and as a generation, may not be able to carry out this task. However, this is the first basic task of both our people and the masses of our Arab and Islamic nation. Palestine should be returned to us because it is not for the Jews.

[Correspondent] This means there would be another war.

[Jibril] We believe we will sooner or later achieve this objective. We also believe that the West will some day realize that its interests should be achieved through us, as Arabs and Muslims, and that the West will relinquish the Jewish and Zionist entity that is now receiving much Western aid.

'Ashrawi, Ross View Need for Normalized U.S.-PLO Ties

JN2110193593 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1806 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Following talks with Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator for the Middle East peace process, last night, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, said that the talks addressed the need to normalize ties between the United States and the PLO and bilateral issues. 'Ashrawi added that she reaffirmed to Ross the need to advance the peace process.

PLO To Hold Local Elections in West Bank

LD2110153593 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 21 Oct 93 p 9

[By Muhammad Nasiriyah]

[Excerpt] Jericho—Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, has said that the Palestinian leadership has decided to hold elections for all the municipalities, chambers of commerce, and national institutions in various West Bank towns during the first half of 1994. Any person who feels completely qualified to serve his people and homeland will be allowed to nominate himself in those elections.

Dr. 'Urayqat added that the first elections will be held for a Palestinian council. Upon arriving in Jericho and Gaza, the PLO will begin supervising utilities, foremost of all national institutions, in these two towns until elections, which are slated to be held on 12 July 1994. [passage omitted]

Deportees Spokesman Comments on PLO-Israel Accord

NC2210101693 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 6 Oct 93 p 15

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, the spokesman for the Palestinian deportees in south Lebanon, said: The Muslim and Arab nations will never succumb to the compromising regimes ruling over their countries.

In an exclusive interview with IRNA in Lebanon, Dr. al-Rantisi stated: The signing of a peace accord between the Arab and Zionist regimes is not all binding on the Islamic ummah, and the Arab and Muslim nations will never compromise or make peace with the Zionists.

Al-Rantisi cited the example of the Egyptian Muslims and said: In view of such anti-Zionist sentiments among the Egyptian Muslims, Husni Mubarak has been unable to visit occupied Palestine; he fears the dangerous repercussions of such a visit for Egyptian society.

He added: Even after 1,000 years, the Zionist regimes and the Arab regimes can't eliminate the resistance of the regional nations against compromise. The time for a war to decide the fate of the Zionists and the principled people draws near.

Al-Rantisi added: Pressure on the principled groups by various circles has had the opposite effect to that which was desired and the role and influence of the Palestinian Muslims has spread worldwide. On the compromise between 'Arafat and the Zionist regime, he added: The signing of the peace accord between the PLO and Tel Aviv has weakened the PLO's role on the Palestinian scene and strengthened the position of the principled groups.

Referring to remarks by Yitzhaq Rabin, who considers Islam his old enemy, and who seeks to inflict blows on Islamic movements, al-Rantisi added: The struggle in the region will revolve around the axis of Islam and Zionism and will be based on Islamic beliefs. The Islamic movement in occupied Palestine has prepared itself for a future confrontation with much high-level planning.

Concluding, he criticized the haste of particular Arab regimes in forging relations with the Zionists and said: These regimes were waiting for the signing of an accord between 'Arafat and the Zionists so that they could extend greater privileges to the despotic regime on the pretext that they could not be more concerned than the Palestinians themselves so that they might blame 'Arafat for such relations.

Algeria

Foreign Minister on Dialogue, Foreign Policy

NC2210065593 London MBC Television in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Mohamed Saleh Dembri by Hasan Zaytuni on the weekly "Face-to-Face" program, in New York on the sidelines of the 48th UN General Assembly session; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Zaytuni] Minister, welcome and thank you for accepting MBC's invitation. Ridha Malik formed his new government a few weeks ago. Can you tell us about this government's programs to deal with the economic and social crisis in Algeria and the spread of violence?

[Dembri] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The new government in Algeria was formed about three weeks ago. The program we have prepared for implementation in every field is based on three priorities: The first concerns political dialogue and future horizons for organizing the political institutions in the country. The second priority concerns economic reform. Negotiations are taking place with the IMF. The third priority is removing violence and extremism from all aspects of national activity.

As for political dialogue, a schedule has been submitted to all the political forces in the country. The main condition is rejecting terrorism and violence to achieve power. There is national consensus on this and on the need to remove all extremist factions from this circle. We want to discuss the outline of a new constitution to safeguard what we in Algeria call the constants and that which is sacrosanct, that is, safeguarding religion, the language, the republican system, respect for others' opinions, and democracy as in all modern societies. These are the basic principles for the future. These are the issues on the agenda for political discussion. I think there will soon be general consensus on the new political system in Algeria and on the transitional period so that we can hold presidential and legislative elections easily.

[Zaytuni] Can you tell us whether the political forces you mentioned have responded positively or negatively to the government's call for dialogue?

[Dembri] If you follow political activity in Algeria, you will know this idea is acceptable. All the legitimate political forces have begun working with the Higher State Council to achieve this consensus.

[Zaytuni] Was there rejection?

[Dembri] Absolutely not. Perhaps observations are being made about the ideas that are being raised, but these, by nature, are part of the constructive dialogue.

[Zaytuni] Minister, as you know, many people attribute the spread of terrorism to social and economic causes, particularly the spread of unemployment among Algeria's youth. Are there programs to reduce unemployment in Algeria, particularly among the youth?

[Dembri] Indeed, if we look at the economy in Algeria, several things can be seen: First, the economic crisis is connected with the international economic situation. Basic changes have occurred in the world in the past 10 years, most notably in the prices of basic materials produced in the Third World.

The Third World, including our countries, cannot control the prices of basic materials. The drop in these prices has created an economic crisis for us and at the same time reduced investment in our countries. We have reached a stage where unemployment has spread, while the national economy hasn't grown as it should and hasn't satisfied the demands of all members of society. This is not really the particular responsibility of any specific country, but is linked with international dealings. It is the responsibility of all the economic groups, which have not considered the need for economic integration and incorporation to overcome this ("problem).

[Zaytuni] This means that the crisis cannot be said to be caused solely by external factors. There are internal reasons, such as corruption, bribery, and bureaucracy in Algeria's society, which help to explain the deteriorating Algerian economy.

[Dembri] The problems of bribery and corruption in Algeria are quite evident and have been publicly debated for some years. This government is determined to fight them. Fighting them was also part of the previous government's programs. We cannot progress if we don't eliminate all these vices. But when we mention bribery, especially in the commercial sector, we should point out that there are those who offer bribes and those who take them. This issue requires us to be particularly aware, because bribery exists in our country and in the Third World countries. But the people offering the bribes are in the industrialized countries. This also requires us to exchange views and to propose integrated legislation in every part of the Third World. When we mention the Third World, what concerns us primarily is the Arab world.

[Zaytuni] We move now, Minister, to Algeria's relations with the other Arab Maghreb countries. What is Algeria's stance on the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] in light of the developments in the region, especially those relating to some problems, such as the Western Sahara problem?

[Dembri] It is well known that Algeria started striving to establish the AMU in the fifties, when we were under colonialism. This determination remains on every level in Algeria. I believe the AMU will become established without difficulty, because the necessary institutions have now been created. There are other institutions spread throughout the AMU member states.

As for the Western Sahara issue, I believe it is now on the way to being solved. There is a United Nations' plan, and we hope the proposed plebiscite will be honest and

frank. There are now direct negotiations between the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] and Morocco held under the best possible conditions. This is our hope. I believe a comprehensive and just solution of the Western Sahara issue will boost the building of an economically strong and socially united Arab Maghreb, which will ultimately emerge as a political group, geographically and geostrategically, that has credibility and can rejuvenate the current framework of world management.

[Zaytuni] Algeria has close ties with the European countries, especially those of the Mediterranean Sea, including France, Spain, and Italy. What is Algeria's position on strengthening these relations?

[Dembri] Of course, these are our geographical surroundings. If we look at the statistics, we find 80 percent of Algeria's trade is with five European countries: Italy, Spain, France, Germany, and Portugal to a lesser extent. This shows that there are, first, historic ties among us and also firm ties linked, first, with all that concerns trade and economic exchange. And we should not forget the large Algerian community in France. According to my information, it numbers between 1.5 and 2 million Algerians if we include all the generations that came from Algeria or were born in France. This has a bearing on Europe's position in our foreign policy.

One other thing. There are several issues concerning the region's security. Such issues should be discussed by the countries north and south of the Mediterranean. This dialogue is not new. It began in the sixties, but the past 10 years saw an attempt to create an organizational framework for conducting this dialogue. In 1986, what came to be known as the five-plus-five dialogue was held.

In relations with Europe, Algeria encourages dialogue. We need to conduct this dialogue. We need a general platform to discuss issues of concern to Algeria in particular and the Arab Maghreb as a whole.

[Zaytuni] Minister, could you tell us about Algeria's relations with Gulf countries? These relations are said to have deteriorated since the Gulf war.

[Dembri] I believe Algeria's relations with Gulf countries are good. Algeria bases its policy on preserving Arab unity. Algeria even paid dearly for involvement in some issues of concern to the Arab East. We paid dearly when the Arab East called on us to help find a solution to the Iraq-Iran war. Such a request was made by the Gulf countries. We should not forget that we lost our foreign minister and 14 of his escorts during this mediation [in a plane crash on the Iranian-Iraqi border] in 1982.

When the Gulf crisis started, immediately after Iraq invaded Kuwait, Algeria wasted no time in making its position known. Algeria, as I recall, was the second country to comment on the issue. Algeria issued an official statement on 2 August 1990, calling for Iraq's immediate withdrawal from Kuwaiti land and urging normal ties to be restored as part of mutual respect for national sovereignty.

That's why I find your question difficult to understand. Algeria has assumed an honorable stance and is not ashamed of it. We maintain relations of fraternity and cooperation with all Gulf countries. Gulf officials visit Algeria as part of our political dialogue. We are active within the Arab League framework. Our policies are based on a logical and consistent agenda that aims, as I said, to promote Arab unity.

[Zaytuni] As you know, Minister, a historic agreement was recently signed by the PLO and Israel. What is the official Algerian view of this agreement. Does Algeria support a partial or comprehensive solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict?

[Dembri] The official Algerian stance was made public by the Higher State Council on 13 September. The Council welcomed the agreement between Israel and the PLO and expressed the hope that the agreement would lead to a comprehensive and just Middle East solution, one involving Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem. Algeria also believes that the Palestinians have the right to make their decisions independently and that non-Palestinian interference in Palestinian political affairs should end. This is our stance.

[Zaytuni] The success of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement is linked with Arab and international support. Has Algeria expressed a readiness to help?

[Dembri] Yes. We were in Washington on 1 October. Algeria will provide financial aid and support the Palestinian people at this stage. Coordinating and consulting with the Arab and European countries, we will try to mobilize every resource to support the Palestinians at this delicate stage.

[Zaytuni] Following the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, Israel and the U.S. Administration have been asking the Arab countries to establish diplomatic and economic relations with Israel. What is Algeria's official position?

[Dembri] Recognition of Israel and the boycott against it are not on the Arab agenda. This issue was unofficially raised in the Cairo [Arab League] meeting and in the recent Arab foreign ministers meeting here in New York. The issue of recognition is linked with national sovereignty. In future, each country will be free to decide on this issue. I believe there will be no collective decision.

[Zaytuni] For particular reasons, Algerian-Iranian relations deteriorated. Are you trying to promote these relations now?

[Dembri] Algeria is intent on its independence. It will never accept any country interfering in its internal affairs. This is why we severed our diplomatic relations with Iran. We have a clear and comprehensive file on Iranian interference. This is known. But at the same

time. Algeria is flexible. It is ready to consider any new facts. But it seems to me there is nothing new.

[Zaytuni] The problem of Bosnia-Herzegovina concerns Algeria and the Islamic world, especially as there are attempts to impose a kind of reconciliation among the warring parties there. What is Algeria's position on this Islamic issue?

[Dembri] Our position is known. We expressed it at the United Nations and at the Islamic Conference Organization. Bosnia's independence must be safeguarded. It is difficult for us now to discuss it so simply. What should be the shape of the new republic or entity and what can we, as Arabs and Muslims, do to protect the Muslims in Bosnia and help them to exist as a state? That is the question. Positions, no matter how firm, cannot resolve the crisis. There must be a collective will to protect the Bosnian Muslims. The efforts of the Islamic Conference Organization, perhaps, give us an idea about the points of weakness and the positions that we could take collectively.

[Zaytuni] Minister, some observers say Algerian diplomacy was very active at a particular time, but then slowed down. First, why? Second, what are the prospects for this diplomacy?

[Dembri] Algerian diplomacy has always been in the forefront. It remains so, when the issue concerns public issues affecting the collective Arab, African, and Third World fate. Algeria always proposes ideas and offers prospects for collective action. This is a tradition we have not abandoned. This used to concern particular issues affecting the relations of Third World countries with the industrial nations. Algeria was one of the countries that proposed establishing a new world order. As you know, the world changed in the eighties. The North-South dialogue failed. Some problems and conflicts emerged among the Third World countries. Economic conditions were among the factors that made several countries, including Algeria, focus on their domestic affairs. This explains why, at a particular period, we were absent from the arena of foreign diplomacy. But today there are new prospects for the whole world, the Nonaligned Movement, the Group of 77, the Arab world, the Arab Maghreb Union, Africa, and the Mediterranean. We will participate in every diplomatic effort that affects these groups.

[Zaytuni] Minister, my last question concerns your representing Algeria at the UN General Assembly's 48th session. What issues is Algeria raising at this session?

[Dembri] This is simple. First, we must determine our status in the new world order. This is one of the issues we are raising. Second, we must examine ways to defend the rights of the Third World and the countries of the South. We must also overcome all the obstacles in our countries and, in particular, learn to carry out the necessary political, economic, and social reforms. This requires consultation among all the countries. We must examine ways to expand cooperation and establish strong economies. This is a lesson for the Arab world. If the Arab world does not adopt the concept of building a strong collective economy, it is clear to me that it will have no role in building the new world order. Thank you.

Dialogue Committee Holds Talks With Parties

LD2110134893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Excerpt] The National Dialogue Committee announced in a statement two days ago that it has started contacting parties and political figures. It said these contacts will continue in the next few days with the rest of the political and social forces and national figures.

AFS today said, after contacting the leadership of the Socialist Forces Front [FFS], that the latter had received a call yesterday from the National Dialogue Committee announcing its intention to start consultations with it in the coming days.

The FFS leadership confirmed that the call was related to consultations to specify ways and procedures for working jointly within the framework of national dialogue.

In a telephone interview with APS, Embarek Mahiou, FFS deputy secretary general, said that the way the National Dialogue Committee is conducting its work is not negative.

The National Dialogue Committee has announced that it welcomes all contributions. It said it would not exclude anyone from dialogue, but would include all who believe in dialogue as a means of remedying the country's political problems. [passage omitted]

Three Kidnapped Foreigners Found Dead

LD2110190293 Paris France Inter Radio Network in French 1800 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Three foreign technicians—from Colombia, Peru, and the Philippines—who were kidnapped the day before yesterday in Algeria have been found dead. This is the third time that foreigners have been kidnapped or murdered in Algeria. The first were two French engineers.

Egypt

Foreign Minister Returns From Visit to Jordan

NC2110222193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1644 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo from Amman this evening after a several-hour visit to Jordan during which he had an audience with King Husayn.

During his brief visit, Musa held talks with 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, Jordanian prime minister and foreign minister, and Talal al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs.

On his return, Musa said that he will submit a report to President Husni Mubarak about his talks in Jordan, noting that King Husayn asked him to convey a message to President Mubarak.

He explained that during his meeting with the Jordanian monarch he conveyed to him President Mubarak's greetings, his views regarding the peace process on all negotiating tracks, the situation in the Middle East, the Arab nation's future, Egyptian-Jordanian relations, and conditions in the Arab world.

The foreign minister affirmed that Egypt will continue its role of promoting peace on all fronts.

Musa said he hopes that Egyptian-Jordanian interaction will continue, pointing out that a meeting between President Mubarak and King Husayn is being discussed but no date for it has been set.

'Amr Musa said he is optimistic about progress in the Syrian-Israeli negotiations in the next few months.

Asked about the prospects for holding an Arab summit conference, Musa said this will come at a later stage, but current discussions are revolving around inter-Arab relations and rapprochement.

He announced that Egyptian-Jordanian relations will improve in the near future.

The foreign minister denied that Egypt is mediating between Israel and Syria. He explained that the Syrian position, identical with Egypt's, calls for Israeli withdrawal.

Musa remarked: We are operating in the context of the Madrid conference, which proceeded from the premise of exchanging land for peace.

Musa, PLO's Abu-Mazin Discuss Jordan Visit

NC2210093693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today received a telephone call from PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin. Musa briefed Abu-Mazin on the results of his visit to Jordan and his talks with King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials. Abu-Mazin informed Musa of the results of his recent visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and his talks with UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

Prime Minister Given Control of Airline, Airports

NC2110160893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] A republican decree was issued today putting Egypt Air under the supervision of the prime minister.

Another republican decree was also issued putting the Cairo Airport authority and its branches in the various Egyptian civilian airports under the supervision of the prime minister.

Minister Urges 'All-Out' War on Terrorism

NC2110221693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1748 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 21 Oct (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi stressed that in the coming stage there will be an escalation of the all-out confrontation by security forces against all forms of terrorism. He also stressed the need for deciding this confrontation quickly in the interest of Egyptian citizens and for eliminating the roots of terrorism once and for all.

The minister said that the confrontation will expand to include all those advocating this terrorist policy and those benefiting from it, not only the elimination of elements that carry out terrorist operations, but also those who take part in them or carry instructions.

He praised the efforts of the police forces in the past and the sacrifices they are making while confronting the elements of terrorism after the security forces have achieved control.

These comments were made at the expanded meeting that the interior minister held today with his assistants, the ministry's various investigation bodies, and commanders of the branches of training, the police academy, traffic, drugs, public funds, civic records, internal maritime control, travel documents, immigration, and naturalization.

The minister said that the ministry's current instructions to all policemen is not to hesitate to use their personal weapons against the outlaws and those who open fire at random on citizens. He added that the ministry will take into account those who fail to use their personal weapons when this is necessary to decide the confrontation and protect the lives of the citizens and policemen.

Minister al-Alfi stressed that the citizens will see in the coming stage an all-out confrontation in combating bribery, corruption, exploitation of influence, and mismanagement that helps support deviations. He said that there will be complete integration between the various security organs and the economic security sector to strike at the roots of corruption and deviation in all workplaces. [passage omitted]

Official Denies Dead Sea Plans Threaten Suez

NC2110222693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1528 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Ismailia, 21 Oct (MENA)—Suez Canal Authority Chairman Engineer Muhammad 'Izzat 'Adil said "there are no justifications at present" for the dangers—which the media has tried to exaggerate—that might face the Suez Canal as a result of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

In a statement he made today, he said that the canal being discussed to connect the Mediterranean or Red Seas to the Dead Sea will not be a maritime one, but will be used to bring water from a high-water-level sea to the

Dead Sea, which has a low water level, to generate electricity. He added that the proposed canal will not have the width and depth that will allow ships to pass through it.

Eng. Muhammad 'Izzat 'Adil ruled out the Arab countries' use of the Israeli oil pipeline between Eilat on the 'Aqabah Gulf and the Mediterranean Sea since there is the SOMED pipeline in which the Arab countries are shareholders, in addition to the other Arab oil pipelines that traverse Syria and Lebanon but which are unused at present.

He called for more coordination and integration between the Suez Canal and the SOMED pipeline to confront the foreign competition and increase Egypt's revenue from the transport of oil across its territories. [passage omitted]

Libya

Military Rebellion, Executions Follow Coup Attempt

LD2210130493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1105 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Kuwait, 22 Oct (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti 'AL-WATAN' newspaper, quoting reports coming to it from Libya, said that a military coup, which took place last Monday in Libya, led to bloody clashes and the detention of a large number of officers and civilians.

The newspaper said that Libyan sources had confirmed to it reports of the military clashes today, which they preferred to call a "military rebellion," in the Beni Walid military base in western Tripoli. The base has a strategic position on the coastal road which links Tripoli with the city of Sirte, where al-Qadhdhafi has a lot of influence.

The newspaper said the sources declined to confirm the coup attempt, but stated that "prominent officers from Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's personal guard were arrested as were other officers" in the deterrence brigade assigned to putting down coup attempts. They were detained and possibly executed immediately.

Revealing the names of three prominent officers, the sources said they were: Deterrence Brigade Commander Misbah al-'Arusi, Colonel Muhammad al-Saqr, and Lieutenant Colonel Miftah al-'Azzum from [al- Qadhdhafi's] personal guards.

The newspapers mentions that reports coming from Libya state that a squadron of planes allied to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi shelled the military base. At the same time, allied Libyan authorities "immediately closed borders with Tunisia and carried out extensive preventive detention raids."

Diplomats Note 'State of Disturbance'

LD2210141293 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1232 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Tunis, 22 Oct (KUNA)— At a time when reports have spoken of the closure by Libya of its border with Tunisia, following a military rebellion which was immediately put down, press reports here today said that the situation along the Tunisian-Libyan border was calm. The Tunisian weekly EL AKHBAR, quoting Tunisian and Moroccan citizens who have returned from Libya, said that the Libyan border officials have been facilitating crossing procedures. Until last week, they were very strict about the procedures for arrivals into Libya, which used to be lengthy and time-consuming. They said that these improvements have come about as a result of instructions, which were issued at higher levels in Libya in order to facilitate the passage of people arriving in Libya.

Earlier press reports spoke about the closure by Libya of its border with Tunisia, saying that the Libyan authorities had carried out an extensive precautionary campaign of detention in the wake of an attempted military rebellion that took place last Monday at the Bani Walid military base, west of the Libyan capital Tripoli. The reports said that prominent officers in the personal guard of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and other officers in the deterrence brigade, whose duty is to oppose any coup attempt, may have been arrested or may have been executed right away.

Libyan sources in Tunis have denied to KUNA that they have any knowledge of such a development. However, foreign diplomatic sources in Tunis have reaffirmed to KUNA that a clearly evident state of disturbance exists in Libya. They said that they have noted abnormal movements by the security forces in Tripoli; they did not confirm, however, that those disturbances were connected to an attempted military rebellion.

Envoy Denies Mutiny Reports

PM2210100993 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Oct 93 p1

[Unattributed report: Al-Bishari: Libya Open for Verification That There Was No Mutiny"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libyan Arab League representative and ambassador to Egypt and former foreign minister, has denied any military mutiny in his country as claimed by opposition sources.

AL-HAYAH had quoted Libyan opposition sources the day before yesterday as saying that a military mutiny took place in the area of Misratah and that the authorities were able to quell it with the help of the Air Force. In a communication with AL-HAYAH, al-Bishari said: "We invite any reporter from AL-HAYAH wishing to verify the denial to visit the area where some claimed a mutiny occurred to see for himself that the area is perfectly calm."

He said that the dissemination of such reports at this particular time is part of "a psychological campaign launched against Libya to destabilize it." He added that "anyone wishing to ascertain that calm and security prevail in the Misratah area should rest assured that the people's committees and congresses are in a position to say anything they like about any subject in Libya."

It should be recalled that travellers arriving in Tunisia from Libya the day before yesterday were unable to confirm the mutiny reports, and French security authorities questioned about the matter said that there was nothing to indicate that something was happening in Libya.

Belgian Mediation Requested in Lockerbie Affair

BR2210111093 Antwerp DE FINANCIEEL-EKONOMISCHE TIJD in Dutch 22 Oct 93 p 6

[Unattributed article: "Libya Requests Belgian Mediation Initiative"]

[Text] Brussels—Libyan Ambassador in Brussels Muhammad Sharaf al-Din al-Fayturi has requested that Belgian authorities make a new mediation attempt between Tripoli and the United States, France, and Great Britain in the Lockerbie affair. The request comes on the eve of possibly sterner international sanctions against Libya because of the bombing of a U.S. plane above the Scottish town of Lockerbie in 1988, in which 270 people were killed.

Belgium is in a good position to act as a mediator, the Libyan ambassador stated, because Brussels is assuming the EC presidency and has good relations with Libya, and it is protecting U.S. interests in Tripoli.

Morocco

U.S.-Belgian Group To Take Part in Power Plan

LD2010161893 Rabat MAP in English 1335 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Rabat, Oct 20 (MAP)—A declaration on the intention of the American-Belgian AES/Tractebel group to contribute to a project for independent generation of power in Morocco was signed here Tuesday by the group and the Moroccan National Office for Electricity (ONE).

The signing ceremony was presided at by Moroccan Minister of Energy and Mines Driss Alaoui Mdaghri who said on the occasion the move is part of the Moroccan policy destined to establish sound bases for energy production to address the country's future needs and to foster foreign investment in all fields.

The cost of the project is valued at 600 million dollars including 180 million to be contributed by the American-Belgian group. The project will generate power for the 'ONE' by means of a 500 megawatts fuel operated plant in Mohammedia, 30 km north of Casablanca. The plant will be operational by the end of 1996.

The American AES is a leading company worldwide generating some 3,300 megawatts, while Tractabel ensures 90 per cent of power and gas supply in Belgium and has a 15,000 megawatts capacity and works in the United States, Argentina, Portugal and Ireland.

Sudan

Islamic Leader Denies Terrorist Camps

BR2010113193 Rome L'ESPRESSO in Italian 17 Oct 93 p 91

[Interview with Sudanese National Islamic Front leader Hasan al-Turabi by Marilisa Verti, date and place not given: "We Are Muslims and Democrats"—first paragraph is L'ESPRESSO introduction]

[Text] The ideologue of Islamic fundamentalism in Sudan, Hasan al-Turabi, has penetrating and very lively eyes, which look even darker against his traditional white robes and turban. His eyes reveal the intelligence, vigor, and wit of a cultured man who studied at Cambridge and the Sorbonne and who then decided to return to live in his own country, where he is treated and recognized by both the population and the government as the nation's spiritual leader. "The press says many erroneous things about my country," he began.

[Verti] The reports about the civil war, human rights being trampled, and the social situation in Sudan are certainly not reassuring.

[Al-Turabi] The current war and conflicts are the result of British colonialism.

[Verti] How have the colonialists affected Sudan's internal affairs?

[Al-Turabi] They divided the North from the South, even introducing a visa requirement to pass from one area to the other. And when the British left, the South had no schools, no hospitals, and no production plant. So, once independence was achieved, the northerners who went south to create development were accused of wanting to colonize that part of the country. Ever since then there has been an alternating cycle of wars and peace here.

[Verti] Is that the only reason for the conflict? What about the fact that the North imposes on the other population groups, including the black Christians, its own customs and traditions, such as the Shariah, Islamic law?

[Al-Turabi] Previously, perhaps it was like that. Now the Shariah is applied only on a territorial basis, and family law applies exclusively to Muslims. The government is aware of the differences that exist among the various areas of Sudan, which is why it envisages the establishment of a federation of states.

[Verti] How do you intend to resolve the southern question?

[Al-Turabi] We are negotiating, trying gradually to send in aid. We have invited southern figures to join the government, specifically in order to increase the chances of mediation. We promote meetings abroad, in neutral locations, to settle conflicts. And I am also convinced that if Europe, and especially Italy, were to get involved in the mediation effort—as it has done in Mozambique—it would be very helpful to us. Everyone here appreciated the way your country conducted itself in Somalia. At the international level, Italy could help us greatly, because your country behaves differently from the United States; it does not try to organize the world in accordance with its own self-image.

[Verti] It is difficult to intervene in Sudan if democratic rights are being trampled, if Amnesty International reports torture, and if you are accused of organizing terrorist training camps.

[Al-Turabi] Amnesty has never carried out inspections in Sudan, and the substance of its reports is the result of tales fabricated by exiles to further their own cause. Egypt is jealous of Sudan, and there is a hostile attitude in general because of the anti-American stance that we adopted during the Gulf War. There are no terrorist camps here, nor are there any instructors from Iran. If by human rights violations you mean preventive detention, then I can tell you that this measure was adopted by previous governments, too. In unstable situations, you have to take precautions with suspect individuals. In Sudan, there may be 150 political detainees. I think that the situation in Egypt, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, or Tunisia is far worse. But they are not condemned because they are considered the West's friends. Nor is it realistic to expect us not to seek aid from or contacts with other Arab countries. Ours is a very difficult situation; we even lack humanitarian aid. What do they expect—that our people should die of starvation after being outlawed by the wealthy countries?"

Al-Bashir Hails Revolution's Achievements

EA2110223393 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, president of the Republic, has said that the decision by the former Revolution Command Council [RCC] to dissolve itself voluntarily has confirmed that the heroes of the salvation revolution were not power-seekers, but that they came only to rescue the nation from the deteriorating circumstances imposed on it during the era of the factional parties. He said this today while addressing the people of Hasahisah Province, Central State, on the occasion of a graduation of a class of the People's Defense Forces from the closed and open camps in the town of Abu 'Ushar.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said that RCC members had handed over power to the people after having satisfied themselves that the aims and principles of the national salvation revolution had been achieved. His excellency said that the salvation revolution was aimed at solving the problems of all the people in their various sections without favoring any quarter. He said religious figures, professionals, and people's representatives had participated in the people's conferences held to solve the country's economic and social problems.

The president of the Republic went on to refer to the efforts the government had made and continues to make to alleviate suffering and to achieve peace in the south, saying that although the revolution made every ("effort) to achieve peace, it found that the rebel leaders understood no language other than that of the rifle. He said the revolution had gone out to the sons of the Sudanese people, and it was the People's Defense Forces who had welded themselves into the Armed Forces and the police in the summer crossing operations against the Sudanese People's LiDeration Army in which they won a clear victory in the operational area in the south.

His excellency reiterated the revolution's commitment to resolve the issue of achieving just and comprehensive peace in the south of the country. His excellency also stressed that they continued to adhere to their oath to spare no effort in working to assert almighty and eternal God's authority. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir hailed the masses of Central State, praising their efforts, selflessness, and loyalty in supporting the revolution's efforts to achieve development.

Kordofan Security Official Defects

PM2110103093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Oct 93 pp 1, 4

[Mu'awiyah Yasin report: "Senior Sudanese Security Official Announces His Defection, Seeks Asylum in Switzerland"]

[Excerpt] London—AL-HAYAH has learned that an official in charge of security in Kordofan province (west of Sudan) has announced his defection from Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir's regime and sought political asylum in Switzerland, where he is expected to issue a statement today or tomorrow to announce the reasons which prompted him to defect.

A report issued by the Arab Lawyers Union and information provided by Sudanese human rights organization officials say that an officer holding the rank of brigadier general in the Sudanese Armed Forces has for three days been suffering from a serious health condition following his torture after he sent a message to the Sudanese justice minister accusing an officer in the Sudanese security services of "raping and castrating him and threatening to attack his wife."

It has been learned that Khalid 'Abd-al-Karim al-Husayni, who is the brother of Kordofan Governor Major General Sayyid 'Abd-al-Karim al-Husayni and was a high-ranking security official in the province, has defected from the regime.

Since August, al-Husayni has been living in a center for political refugees in Switzerland pending the authorities' decision on his application for political asylum.

Al-Husayni told groups concerned with human rights in Sudan that his conscience could not bear the "information and instructions" he used to receive as regards security conditions in the al-Nubah mountains area (in the south of the province), where fierce fighting is taking place between government forces and Nubian fighters belonging to the mainstream of the "Sudanese People's Liberation Movement" led by Colonel John Garang.

Dr. Yasin Muhaysi, secretary general of the Sudanese human rights organization (based in London), has said that he met with al-Husayni in Switzerland. He told AL-HAYAH that al-Husayni will hold a news conference today (Tuesday) [19 October] to explain the reasons that prompted him to defect and flee from the regime.

Our information says that al-Husayni expressed his discontent to his brother about what the security forces are doing in the province, but his brother told him he could do nothing.

Sudanese arriving in Cairo said yesterday that al-Abyad, capital of Kordofan, continues to experience unrest as a result of the fuel crisis and the high prices of basic commodities. [passage omitted]

Saddam Congratulates al-Bashir on 'Election'

EA2110222993 Khartoum SUNA in English 1610 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Oct (SUNA)—President Gen 'Umar al-Bashir has received a congratulatory cable from the Iraqi president, Saddam Husayn, on the occasion of his election as president of the Republic of Sudan. The cable expressed hope for more development and prosperity to the Sudanese people.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Receives Netherlands Foreign Minister

LD2010194393 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali received Netherlands Foreign Minister Peter Kooijmans in Carthage Palace this morning. Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya also attended the meeting.

Following the audience, which was also attended by ambassadors from both countries, the Netherlands foreign minister made a statement in which he said that his audience with the president dealt with bilateral relations, which he described as excellent on the political level. He expressed his conviction that there are further opportunities that would help consolidate economic cooperation between the two countries.

In this connection, he indicated that the visit by the Netherlands minister of foreign trade next January will surely bolster this cooperation.

After stating that the talks also reviewed the situation in the Mediterranean region, Mr. Kooijmans said that during this audience he submitted a report on the EC internal situation in light of the implementation of the Maastricht Treaty following the many crises it has endured in recent years.

In this context, the Netherlands foreign minister stressed his country's commitment to support the creation of a partnership agreement between Tunisia and the EC. He highlighted that the meeting was also an opportunity for discussing the Middle East peace process. He said Tunisia's role in this matter is very important; however, what is also important is that all Arab countries should give their assistance, particularly financial assistance, to help rebuild the occupied territories.

Kuwait

Interior Ministry: Narcotics Top Security Priority

LD2210105793 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0857 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait 22 October KUNA—Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Humud al-Jabir in a press statement published here today said that the real danger threatening Kuwait now is the attempts by the Iraqi regime to invade Kuwait security from within following the failure of all attempts to penetrate the border.

In a press statement to the Kuwaiti AL-QABAS newspaper, he said that many attempts to bring narcotics into Kuwait have been foiled. He pointed out that combatting narcotics is the main concern of the security organs in order to keep this disease away from Kuwait. He added that the Interior Ministry has sent a group of 17 officers to the Arab Republic of Egypt for the most modern theoretical and modern training methods on combatting narcotics. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Reform Grouping Issues Statement After Meeting

JN2110214393 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] The work of the periodic meeting of the Higher Preparatory Committee for the first general congress of the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG] was concluded at the Cultural Center in Sanaa at noon today under Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives and chairman of the YRG's Supreme Council.

At the conclusion of its meeting, the YRG issued a final statement, congratulating our people on the Yemeni revolution anniversaries. The statement indicated that the conferees endorsed the YRG's draft political platform in light of the views and remarks expressed by the conferees. Thus, the platform can be submitted to the general congress. The conferees also agreed on a date for the YRG's first general congress.

The statement added: The Higher Preparatory Committee reviewed the phases our country has experienced since the establishment of Yemeni unity. It also discussed the events witnessed in the country during the transitional phase, which produced some developments affecting various walks of life in the country. The statement noted the results of parliamentary elections and the formation of the [words indistinct] government coalition.

In this regard, the Higher Preparatory Committee noted that its decision to take part in the government coalition has proved to be sound. It also underscored compliance with the coalition document endorsed by the parties to the coalition. It deemed coalition government a unique experience in Arab communities. It also noted the importance of seeing the coalition leaders comply with agreements, and the need for them to settle their disputes through dialogue and agreed frameworks. It also stressed the need to work to remove all manifestations of fragmentation. It also said that there is a need to expedite efforts to unify and merge the Armed Forces to render them a national institution that will safeguard the homeland, its sovereignty, and its independence, and protect constitutional legitimacy. The Armed Forces, the Higher Preparatory Committee noted, must be spared any involvement in partisan conflicts. The Committee also noted the need for the House of Representatives to play its role, discharge its constitutional duties, and accord due attention to its monitoring missions. The statement also said that the government must accomplish its tasks, implement its program, and be spared any involvement in political differences. The government, the statement maintained, must accord economic issues due attention. Similarly, it must allow political forces and the people's masses to engage in acts of constructive opposition.

The conferees noted the need to uphold the country's crucial issues and the people's concerns through a conference that would bring together all political forces. These issues and concerns must be incorporated into a national plan that will identify priority tasks as well as the executive programs required to accomplish them. The agreements reached by the parties to the coalition must be announced. Moreover, a new responsible information policy must be drawn up in light of the requirements of the phase. This policy must be free of the discourse based on vituperation and vilification, the statement concluded.

Foreign Minister on Mitterrand Visit

PM2110134093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Oct 93 p 6

[Randah Taqiyy-al-Din report: "Basindwah Tells AL-HAYAH: We Need No Mediation in Our Relations With the Gulf States"]

[Text] Sanaa—Commenting on French President Francois Mitterrand's visit to Yemen, Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah has told AL-HAYAH that French-Yemeni relations "are old, very good, and have not suffered at all. There is cooperation in many fields between the two friendly countries."

He said he was delighted with the visit of Mitterrand, who arrived in Sanaa the day before yesterday and from there went to Cairo yesterday. This was the first visit by the French president since he assumed power in his country 12 years ago, Basindwah said.

On relations between Yemen and the Gulf states, the Yemeni foreign minister said: "These relations do not require mediation. There are direct contacts with the neighboring fraternal states. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih will brief the French president on the results of the efforts made to mend the rifts between Yemen and its neighbors."

On the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, he said: "The Yemeni Republic has supported the Gaza-Jericho agreement out of its commitment to its recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and to what the Palestinian leadership decides." He described the agreement as "an important step, which we see as a good beginning but insufficient on its own to reassure us that peace has been achieved. Given that we support it, it would be dangerous to overestimate or underestimate it."

Prime Minister Receives Vietnamese Official

JN2110144493 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas today received Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh, who is currently on a visit to our country.

The two sides discussed relations between the two friendly countries and peoples and means of promoting them in all fields.

Deputy Industry Minister Dr. 'Abdallah Muhammad Iqbal, the Industry Ministry under secretary, and the Vietnamese ambassador to Sanaa attended the meeting.

Official Talks Begin

JN2210071493 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] An official round of talks between our country and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam was held in Sanaa today. The talks were led on the Yemeni side by brother Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, minister of industry, and chairman of the General Investment Organization. For Vietnam, the talks were led by Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh, who is currently visiting our country.

At the outset of the session, Dr. al-'Attar welcomed the Vietnamese side, noting the Yemeni people's admiration and appreciation of the struggle waged by the Vietnamese people to achieve liberation and independence. He affirmed the need for the two sides to work to promote the friendly bilateral ties to translate them into joint economic, technical, and trade ventures in the interest of the two friendly peoples. He added: Although it is a less fortunate country in terms of development, Yemen has managed, during recent years, to achieve an economic growth rate of 6.6 percent per year.

For his part, the Vietnamese deputy prime minister explained the struggle waged by the Vietnamese people to achieve independence and liberation. He expressed the Vietnamese people's thanks for and appreciation of the Yemeni people's positions supporting the Vietnamese people's struggle to achieve the objective of independent statehood. He said the Vietnamese people have closely followed the Yemeni people's struggle to achieve the objectives of liberation, independence, reconstruction, and national unity. He expressed satisfaction with the level of the ties of cooperation between the two friendly countries and peoples in various spheres. He stressed the need to promote and expand these ties. He also explained the areas in which the two sides can cooperate, such as trade, finding markets for trade, health services, and educational fields.

In their talks, the two sides will address two basic issues, namely, cooperation in trade, health, and educational spheres, and the formation of a joint Yemeni-Vietnamese committee.

Spokesman on Iranians' Visit, Future Contacts

JN2110202693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] An official spokesman for the [Iraqi] Foreign Ministry has stated the following to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY:

Mr. Mohammad Javad Zarif, the deputy foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran for organizations affairs, paid a visit to the Republic of Iraq from 17-21 October. He led an official delegation of senior officials form the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

The Iranian delegation held talks with the Iraqi side, which was led by Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal, senior under secretary of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry. The main task of these talks was to prepare for a coming meeting between the foreign ministers of the two countries in Baghdad later this year in order to resolve the outstanding problems between the two countries, led by the issue of prisoners of war [POW's] and missing persons.

The Iraqi side stressed the need to return the Iraqi POW's from Iran according to the bases of both international humanitarian law and the true and tolerant Islamic law. The return of both the Iraqi POW's and aircraft, which were temporarily sent to Iran, will be necessary measures to pave the way for resolving the problems between the two countries.

The two sides agreed on the need to complete discussions of these issues in a coming meeting that will be held in Tehran at a later time. This meeting will be [? preceded] by a visit by Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati to the Republic of Iraq to meet with Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf in order to discuss and resolve all outstanding issues, led by the issue of the POW's and missing persons.

Plan To Settle Palestinian Refugees Denied

JN2210103793 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Oct 93 p 22

[Report by Lam'i Shalabi from Cairo]

[Excerpts] Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent envoy to the Arab League, has denied recent news media reports about lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq in return for Iraq's acceptance of resettling Lebanon's Palestinian refugees in Iraq.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y correspondent in Cairo, he stressed that Iraq has fulfilled its obligations toward UN Security Council Resolution No. 687, and thus, Iraq calls on the Security Council to fulfill its obligations by lifting the blockade, especially since the UN Security Council resolution is clear and frank and basically pertains to the dismantling of mass destruction weapons. [passage omitted]

Concerning news reports that an Arab president's son has contacted Israel in order to purchase arms, in reference to the Iraqi president's son, Nabil Najm said: Is it logical for Iraq to purchase weapons at this particular time when we are suffering from the international blockade? How can we purchase weapons under these circumstances? On the other hand, Iraq is in no need of arms, but is in dire need of cash to buy food and clothing for its sons. I wonder, even if these reports are true, how could these weapons enter Iraq under the international blockade imposed on it?

On the latest about Iraq's relations with Iran, Najm affirmed that relations between the two sides are good, pointing out that in this regard, Iraq is like all Gulf states, particularly Saudi Arabia, and seeks to bolster ties with Iran. [passage omitted]

Death Sentence Decreed for Prostitution Rings

JN2110170593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] The Revolution Command Council has decided that anyone who runs a group of two or more persons for the procurement of prostitutes shall be punished with execution.

Following is the text of the decree:
In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate
The Republic of Iraq
The Revolution Command Council
Number of decree: 155
Date of decree: 21 October 1993

Decree:

According to the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the Revolution Command Council [RCC] has decided the following:

1. Anyone who runs a group of two or more persons for procurement purposes, as stipulated in Article 1 of the Law on Fighting Prostitution No. 8 of 1988, shall be punished with execution.

2. The parties concerned shall implement the provisions of this decree.

[signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman

London-Based Dialogue Committee Disbands

PM2110103493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Oct 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Dialogue Committee Disbands in London"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The "Iraqi Central Committee for Dialogue and Follow-up," which arose from a conference attended by 182 Iraqi oppositionists in April, issued a statement yesterday announcing the dissolution of its organization and the reexamination of its

existence in present circumstances. It said that the committee's abolition gives impetus to the national plan process in Iraq.

The committee said that some six months after its establishment it had become clear that it had not succeeded in turning its political assets into an active practical force. It expressed the wish that all Iraqi opposition leaders and grass roots who believe in the Iraqi national plan be given the opportunity to move toward an adequate formula that embodies the national plan through collective action and democratic means.

Regime Forces Reportedly Attack Southern Regions

NC2110164993 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1445 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] A large unit of tyrant Saddam's forces has attacked (al-Bayib) in al-Madinah subdistrict in the struggling Governorate of al-Basrah. This was reported by our sources in the Islamic revolution mujahidin. The sources said the brutal attack targeted civilians and their houses. Several homes were burned and a number of innocent people were injured. The regime was trying to take revenge against the increase of jihad operations against its forces and cover for its losses in those heroic operations.

The same sources said that the regions of (Zishri) and (Nahr al-Sab') came under intensive artillery shelling in which a number of citizens were injured. On the same day, the artillery of the Saddamite regime shelled (Abu Subat), (Abu Shamah), (al-Sa'adah), and al-Muwayjid. A woman was killed, eight others hurt, and a large number of animals were killed in the shelling, which lasted from 0730 to 1800.

Use of Chemical Weapons in Marshland Protested

NC2110071393 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1440 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] The Archives Center for Human Rights in Iraq [ACHRI] has sent a message to (Max van der Schteul) containing documented information about the Baghdad regime's use of chemical weapons in its offensive against areas in Iraq's southern marshland.

The message says the forces of Cffat Ibn-Ghazwan) of the 51st Division, assisted by the 32d Armored Brigade, late last month attacked Murr, (Buzirji), and other areas in al-Basrah.

The message adds that the regime's forces killed many inhabitants and forced others to flee the villages of (al-Hayatim), (al-Mudaynah), (Abu al-Sanajij), (al-Minasifiyah), (al-Muhayyat), (Um al-Hawali), and (al-Qudrah). Nearly 2,000 Army personnel and villagers were killed or wounded during the offensive. Protesting the regime's use of chemical weapons in its marshland offensive, ACHRI issued a statement on 16 October, a copy of which has been handed to (Schteul), the special commissioner for human rights. The statement says:

The Baghdad regime shows every sign of disregard for human rights in Iraq. The regime's violation of human rights and its assault on basic freedoms are a measure of the weakness of the international measures that seek to uphold human rights in Iraq, bring the regime to account, end the mayhem, and alleviate the unbearable suffering of the population. Again, these acts must be condemned and efforts renewed to stop things getting worse.

The UN special commissioner has rightfully stated that ordinary measures are inadequate in the face of the extraordinary circumstances in Iraq.

Everyday, there are more victims and the suffering spreads. The regime is using internationally banned chemical weapons against al-Basrah's unarmed inhabitants. On 28 September, it used these weapons to kill many inhabitants and force the others to flee their homes and abandon their sources of livelihood.

The statement calls on the international community and its various organizations to take a firm stand and pressure the Baghdad regime to comply with international law.

West, UN Blamed for Failure To Stop Attacks

NC2110072893 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1455 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Saddamite regime has again used chemical weapons against our kin in the marshland. It used the internationally banned weapons in al-Basrah's (Abu Zirqi) area. This raises questions about the usefulness of the international inspection committees, which recently announced they would soon close the file on Iraq's chemical weapons.

The use of chemical weapons has also raised questions about the position of the allied states, the Security Council, and other organizations on the regime's repeated violations of international law and the rights of the steadfast Iraqi people.

The regime used these weapons after an announcement by Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission on Iraq's disarmament, that the international inspection committees will destroy all Iraq's toxic material in the next two months. The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] announced that chemical explosions occurred in Mosul, causing many casualties among our kin. But as usual, the regime claimed that butane gas cylinders exploded near the popular army training grounds. Sources announced that the regime used chemical weapons in the marshlands. SAIRI sources, messages by SAIRI leader Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim to the UN secretary general, and a recent report by THE WASHINGTON POST stressed that such violations did occur, and the world was blamed for the mass destruction in the marshlands.

The Austrian press launched a campaign against the Security Council, the Western alliance, and even the Austrian Government. The survival of the Saddamite

regime and the silence over its crimes and repeated violations, the press said, represent a mark of disgrace for humanity and obviously run contrary to all Western claims about democracy and human rights.

The United Nations is blamed most for the crimes perpetrated by the Saddamite regime against our kin in Iraq. The world is also responsible for all the agony, tragedy, and pain suffered by our people. The world can force the implementation of Resolution 688, which provides for protecting the Iraqi people, and can apply all kinds of pressure on the regime. The experience in north Iraq proves this ability. Why should things in south Iraq be different from north Iraq [words indistinct], while the brutal regime is the same one?

The Iraqi people are waiting for the world's conscience to work to implement international resolutions instead of [words indistinct].

Civil Defense Teams Defuse 8,368 Bombs

JN2110173793 Baghdad INA in English 1329 GMT 93

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 21 (INA)—Competent teams in the Civil Defence Directorate in al-Anbar Province defused during the past months of this year 8,368 bombs of various sizes in addition to a cruise missile dropped by the hostile warplanes of the U.S.-led coalition members on Iraq.

Director of the Civil Defence Directorate in the province told INA that the competent teams had defused since the U.S.-led war in 1991 so far 36,414 cluster bombs, twenty cruise missiles and 303 air-to-surface missiles dropped on the residential units in the province.

Arab League Informed of Allied Airspace 'Violations'

11-12 Oct Sorties Flown

JN1710165493 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, Oct 17 (INA)—Iraq has protested to the Arab League against the continued facilities provided by Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers to the U.S., British and French airplanes, violating its airspace and threatening its security and sovereignty.

In a letter to Arab League Secretary-General Dr 'Ismat 'abd-al Majid, Iraq's permanent representative said the planes had on October 11 and 12 flown 58 hostile sorties coming from bases in Saudia and Kuwait.

The letter requested informing Arab League member states on these regrettable facts.

13-14 Oct 'Violations' Protested

JN1810113193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1028 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Oct (INA)—Iraq has once again protested to the Arab League against the continued facilities which the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers provide to the U.S., French, and British aircraft that violate Iraq's airspace. This poses a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Iraq's League representative said these aircraft continued to violate Iraqi airspace after taking off from Saudi and Kuwaiti bases, and carried out 94 hostile air sorties on Wednesday and Thursday, 13 and 14 October.

He requested the Arab League to distribute the letter among the League's member states to brief them on these regrettable facts. A list detailing these violations was attached to the letter.

15-16 Oct Sorties Reported

JN1910131093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Iraq has repeatedly protested to the Arab League against the continued facilities offered by the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to U.S., British, and French aircraft violating Iraqi airspace, noting that this seriously jeopardizes Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter addressed yesterday to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League said these aircraft continued on 15 and 16 October to violate Iraqi airspace, taking off from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and conducted (?603) hostile sorties.

Iraq's permanent representative asked that the letter be circulated to Arab League member states, along with a list he enclosed detailing the violations, to take note of these regrettable facts.

17-18 Oct 'Violations' Noted

JN2110145393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1136 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Oct (INA)—Iraq has protested to the Arab League against the continued facilities offered by the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to U.S., British, and French aircraft, which are violating Iraqi airspace, noting that this poses a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Iraq's permanent representative said that on 17 and 18 October, these aircraft continued to violate Iraq's airspace taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, conducting 83 aggressive sorties.

The Iraqi representative attached a list detailing the violations and asked that the letter be circulated to Arab League member states.

'Exploratory' Contacts With Iraq Under Way

TA2210084993 Tel Aviv YEDIOT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Oct 93 pp 1, 10

[Report by Gabi Brunn]

[Text] Several weeks ago, Iraqi officials approached an Israeli political official with a request to establish direct contacts between the two countries. The Iraqi approach was made in a European country, and it appears that exploratory meetings between Iraqi and Israeli officials have been held over the past several weeks.

A senior political source in Jerusalem has reported that the shift in Iraq's anti-Israeli stand came in parallel with the recent political developments in the Middle East and follows from Iraq's realization that the road to thawing its ties with the United States should "pass through Israel." According to the source, the U.S. Administration is strictly opposed to direct contacts between Israel and Iraq.

Peres: 'No Intention' To Hold Negotiations

TA2210132593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said today that he sees no need to deny the report that there have been direct or indirect contacts between Israel and Iraq because Israel has no intention of holding negotiations with Baghdad. Our correspondent Yafa Glick reports that, speaking during a tour of Ra'anana with the Labor candidate for city mayor, Peres added that the Iraqi people and state are not Israel's enemies, but the current Iraqi regime is hostile and constitutes a problem for the entire region. There is doubt whether Iraq will be a peaceful state as long as Saddam remains in power.

On the same issue, Minister 'Uzi Bar'am said that he would not be surprised if it became apparent that there are contacts with Iraq, although he knows nothing about it.

Peres: Negotiations With Jordan 'Topmost Priority'

TA2210072393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] The political negotiations with Jordan are Israel's topmost priority at present, and they come before the negotiations with Syria. This observation was made by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday at a ceremony marking the launch of a tourism promotion campaign.

[Begin recording] [Peres] We cannot lift several loads all at once; we have to tackle them one by one. At this stage, I believe we should tackle the Jordanian load before we move on to the Syrian one.

[Correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad] And what about the Jordanian load?

[Peres] There has been progress in that area. Israel and Jordan signed an agreement on an agenda which is really more than an agenda; it is rather an outline of peace. Now these negotiations have to be raised one more notch upward. [end recording]

Shahal Reports Energy Contacts With Lebanon, Jordan

TA2210091493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Lebanon has asked for Israel's assistance in the construction of a power station in south Lebanon. Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal has announced that the issue is being negotiated with Lebanon and that the Lebanese representatives have voiced their country's desire to coordinate the planning of Lebanon's power stations with Israel to enable linking the two countries' power grids in the future.

Our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling adds that Israel has approached Jordan with a proposal that it link up with Israel's main power grid along the 'Arava down to the Gulf of Aqaba, eliminating the need for a separate electricity conduit.

Shahal: Palestinian Women May Exit Occupied Areas

TA2210093093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] The police minister announced in Haifa this morning that as of now, female residents of the territories of all ages will be allowed to enter Israel. In addition, territories residents over 40 and youths under 16 who are in the company of adults carrying entry permits will be allowed into Israel.

As for the closure on Jerusalem, regulations governing the entry of specific groups, such as physicians and municipal workers, will be eased.

Our correspondent Nati Zilberman reports that the facilitating measures will go into effect in the middle of next week.

Syrian Tourism Companies View Cooperation Prospects

TA2110191193 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] Syrian tourism companies have approached the Israeli Foreign Ministry to examine the prospects of cooperation in the tourism business in the Middle East. This has been learned by our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik. The approach was made recently and in secret by businessmen in Syria as well as Syrians living in Europe through a foreign international tourism company. Our correspondent points out that there have

recently been numerous appeals by Arab businessmen who would like to take advantage of the political developments in the region.

Arab-American 'World Leader' of Hamas Military Arm

TA2110202793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hamid Salah, a U.S. citizen who was arrested in Israel earlier this year, was the world leader of the military arm of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. This emerged from the amended indictment presented against him at the military court in Ramallah. Salah had initially been charged with transferring money to Hamas in the territories.

The indictment notes that prior to his trip to Israel Salah received from Musa Abu-Marzuq, his co-commander in Hamas, maps showing the site where the body of soldier Ilan Sa'adon had been buried. Salah had planned to hand the maps over to the Israeli authorities in exchange for the release of prominent Hamas activists. However, searches conducted by Hamas members failed to turn up anything and the plan was consequently scrapped.

Salah is also charged with planning, along with Hamas activists in the Ramallah area, to assassinate Dr. Sari Nusaybah, a prominent Fatah member in the territories.

An ITIM correspondent reports that the indictment states that Salah visited Israel for the first time in 1987 and established the infrastructure for the military arm of Hamas.

Congolese Minister Holds Secret Visit To Discuss Oil

TA2210113993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] The Congolese Government has offered Israeli oil companies the opportunity to drill for oil on Congolese territory. As a result, the directors of the Hanal, Naphtha, and Lapidot oil drilling companies will soon explore the issue in the Republic of Congo.

Our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling reports that the Congolese energy minister secretly visited Israel and met with Energy Minister Moshe Shahal several days ago. He proposed to establish a joint Israeli-Congolese oil drilling company. He further offered to sell Israel crude oil from his country.

Three Palestinians Sentenced to Life in Prison

TA2110080193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] A military court in Gaza has sentenced three Palestinians to life imprisonment for the murders six months ago of Yehuda Gavi and Simha Levi in the Gaza Strip. The three—Taliq Mustafa, Hamdi Zubaydi, and 'Isma'il Abu-Jarrad—were members of the Popular Front terror organization.

Test of Barak Missile Termed 'Successful'

TA2110194693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] The Israel Navy in cooperation with Israel Aircraft Industries and REFA'EL [Arms Development Authority] today conducted a successful test of a Barak antiballistic surface-to-surface missile. The Barak, launched from a ship, successfully intercepted a Gabriel surface-to-surface missile fired from another ship. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe points out that the Barak system will be mounted on the Israel Navy's Saar 5 ships and that contracts have already been signed to supply Barak systems to several countries.

King Addresses Royal War College Ceremony

JN2010191793 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Oct 93

["Full recording" of a speech by King Husayn of Jordan at a Jordanian Royal War College graduation ceremony on 20 October]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brother graduates, respected audience: God's peace and blessings be upon you. I am pleased to be among you today to congratulate the graduates of the sixth class of the Royal War College on their success. I congratulate them in the name of Jordan and the Jordanians, members of the one Jordanian family from all walks of life, those whose heads will not bow except to God the almighty.

The Royal War College is a military institution whose members have always been distinguished Arab army officers who have served with sincerity and great competence both in the field and in the administration throughout the Arab Jordanian Armed Forces at home and abroad.

This course is a high-level course and those taking it will study the military and do strategic research in all the political and economic domains having direct impact on the Arab army and its responsibilities, and on the homeland, the nation, the region, and the whole world. They will enrich our march with new useful studies and proposals that will be discussed by the general command and help it draw up the landmarks of the present and future march in the best possible manner. They will also provide the state with useful studies and proposals to deal with many problems and important issues. This course enables the graduates to qualify for high responsibilities in the ranks of the Armed Forces.

This is, therefore, the Royal War College and this is its path and output. In the future, this college will open its doors to a limited number of qualified members of fraternal and friendly Armies.

I send you greetings of appreciation from your comrade-in-arms. I also send greetings to the General Command and to the college staff and command. I congratulate the graduates on their achievements during their distinguished years of service and their completion of this high-level course.

I will continue to cherish this pride in you as I see you advancing in science, planning, and training and continuing your diligent work so that this homeland will remain proud, safe, and respectable, God willing.

A few days ago, I talked to you about the homeland and the entire nation, their sons and daughters. Jordan defeats all challenges and is strongly on the side of right. It is strong from its experiences since its birth in facing the most serious situations in the greater homeland, thanks to the awareness of everybody and their ability with God's help to distinguish between the good and the bad, and thanks to the brave ones who deal with difficult and decisive situations and who are always faithful to their responsibilities toward future generations. I talked to you about Jordan in detail regarding the issues confronting it. I talked to you with the sincerity of a Hashemite who has been honored by this ancestry and the duties and responsibilities this ancestry imposes on him—responsibilities that rise above trivialities and lowly things and all worldly things. You have given this Hashemite your trust over the past 40 years and he has lived for you, giving you all of his trust. You have been and will always be worthy of this rich and absolute trust. This trust obliges us to rise to the level of success by presenting a good example to the far and near by participating in democracy or shura, call it what you will, and in the political pluralism that we are still at the beginning of—a pluralism based on useful and convincing platforms giving the people the opportunity to choose from among its elements and those preaching pluralism in the promising future.

It is a pluralism of Jordanian origin and features. It binds us together with all that is good and promising, and prevents dissension. Time and experience will make the overabundant groups that came to existence under this pluralism realize that overcrowding hinders movement. Thus, they will converge into a few groups—not exceeding the fingers on one hand. Those affiliated with such groups will free themselves of outdated political adolescence, for which the time has come to be exchanged for a new responsible and purposeful pattern of thinking that binds rather than divides and builds rather than destroys, one that is based on respect for the Constitution and the National Charter. This is part of our commitment to maintain human rights and defend responsible freedom under which the country's laws and people's rights are respected. For we are eager to turn Jordan into a beacon of light, with the help of God.

On the eve of the electoral campaign for the new House of Representatives, I spoke to everyone of you. I meant every word I said. I do not have to repeat myself, except to say that we are standing by the side of Palestine, its people, and their leadership, which they have chosen as their sole, legitimate representative. This stand is consistent and firm; it is not a seasonal one. We committed ourselves to this stand at the Rabat summit of 1974. We have supported the hopes of the men, women, elderly, and children of the people of Palestine, especially those who have been clinging to their land and right to their national soil for the past 26 years. They have never yielded to despair, violence, and suffering. We are against whoever is deluded into attempting to one-up those people or to extinguish the rays of hope in their souls and hearts regarding the recent Palestinian-Israeli agreement, mutual recognition, and the approval of a draft declaration of principles, all of which are part of the march toward the realization of a peace based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. We have never been, and will never be, God willing, slanderers, pessimists, and those who change their stands overnight from one extreme to another.

We have explained our stand on holy Jerusalem. We have also explained our Hashemite, Arab, and Islamic responsibilities toward it. We also called for the establishment of a new non-political Islamic commission, with which we would be honored to cooperate. It should be a committee that transcends politics and ambitions from any source. It should seek nothing but the satisfaction of God. It should represent all Islamic sects, of which there seven today, I might add. This number reminds us of the seven-pointed star that decorates the Jordanian Hashemite flag. Such a committee should seek to close the ranks of the Islamic nation, so that it will become the greatest of nations, as God wants it to be. We urge the Christian world to come together and agree on a religious dialogue among the followers of the three monotheistic religions. Such a dialogue would lead to a collective recognition that the only sovereignty over their holy places in Jerusalem belongs to God, so that the holy city would become a place of worship for all worshipers and those who fear God. This will be in fulfillment of God's wish that Jerusalem, with its holy places, be cherished by all the children of Abraham, may peace be upon him. No Muslim, who has read the holy book that God revealed to his faithful Arab messenger in clear Arabic, can deny this fact.

Besides, we accept for the Palestinians what they accept for themselves. We support them to the best of our ability so that we will both become stronger down the joint march. We stress our right to call on them all to meet and cooperate. We proceed from God's words: And obey God and his messenger; and fall not into disputes, lest you lose heart and your power depart; and be patient preserving; for God is with those who patiently preserve. [Koranic verse]

With respect to us here in Jordan, we must decide that we should show no fear of any person or any party whatsoever. This will be possible if we come together, and if this close-knit people and family vote for figures who reflect awareness, honesty, courage, and a sense of responsibility. I rest assured. Having put my trust in God, I trust that each and every voter among you will neither let yourselves, nor me down when you proceed to engage in an enlightened exercise of your responsibilities in the next few days to herald, God willing, an upcoming phase of stability, a balance that we would care to cherish and safeguard among the three branches of government, as well as a continuation of work and construction, and unity among all. For amongst us, may God guide us all, there are people who look as if they were drowned in a traditional negativism, which, if it is allowed to go to unchecked, God forbid, I, along with you, would have to reconsider all our calculations, each from his own position, toward the continuation of keeping the trust, that we must keep together.

Let us abandon from our ranks those who are indisposed to goodness, and those who do not feel at ease unless, God forbid, owls hoot and ravens croak on the rubble of this homeland, which will remain immune, God willing, and guarded against whoever seeks to harm and hurt it, either deliberately or otherwise. This might be the outcome of the current state of affairs, in which we have become the last to know what is taking place among our brothers and others.

Since the inception of the Kingdom, we have experienced one devastating catastrophe after another. We have cautioned against the dangers of all these catastrophes, but nobody has heeded our calls. But when what we cautioned against happened, we were the first to bear the consequences. We have always been the first to handle the negative impact of each and every catastrophe and event. In return for this, we have been denied any understanding of any of our concerns or interests, which have always been related to the nation's interests. Likewise, we have been denied any understanding of the truth regarding our pan-Arab concern for the interests of our nation, which we have always sought to promote at the expense of this steadfast people, who are holding out in the most serious positions. Some of us, even here, have become disciples of the school of ingratitude, disavowing any accomplishment we have achieved, beginning with the Constitution that we bestowed on this people, the freedoms, democracy, and respect for human rights, and ending with all that makes this homeland stand out among other homelands. They are asking us, with stupidity and constant misunderstanding of our noble motives to promote our nation's interests, to adopt subservient and backward positions in the course of the performance of our duties toward this people, their future, and destiny.

Had all the Arabs, for example, signed agreements of principle, or working agendas containing topics to be discussed with Israel along the road to peace before we did, they would have commended and lauded this. But, for us to sign an agreement, and to make preparations for work on issues that concern us, given that all parties have been engaged in the peace process in the first place, to which there is no alternative, even if this were to come on the heels of our commitment to see progress made on the Palestinian- Israeli track first, or to support this progress, this is deemed something completely different.

Commenting on all this, I would like to say that we are for a just and comprehensive peace. When we take steps, observe a halt, or fail to take any step along the road, to which all have committed themselves in the first place, this is a Jordanian national matter, and the product of a Jordanian national decision. It is high time for all parties, be they Arabs or foreigners, to learn that we are not motivated by anything other than our convictions, which emanate from our concern for the interests of our homeland and nation.

As for the Arab army, it has an enormous role to play in protecting the homeland and its accomplishments here, in the world, as part of UN peacekeeping operations, and also in the region, in support of its stability and security, given the fact that the world around us is being reshaped in the aftermath of its fragmentation in the recent years. The reference here is to the world whose features have

experienced a change. The United Nations, which is about to mark its 50th anniversary, is about to be reorganized to reflect the facts of the current times, not the facts when it came into being, and to identify principles that will spell out guidelines for relations among people on this planet—guidelines based on uniform standards and rules in the course of handling problems that need to be remedied. When problems are to be remedied, all parties, including ourselves, must shoulder their responsibilities as partners on the basis of mutual respect and cooperation in the interest of all mankind, demonstrating collective responsibility in a new world.

Concluding, I would like to say that competent, professional, honest, conscientious, enlightened, and courageous individuals, and sincere workers are an asset to the homeland, God willing.

May God protect you all. May God also protect the honorable and honest march. May he grant us all his satisfaction, along the road of goodness and success. It is God who grants success.

May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you. [applause]

IAF: Government Interfering in Election Campaign

JN2010125693 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Oct pp 1, 5

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Suhayr 'Ubaydat]

[Text] Amman—The Islamic Action Front (IAF) warned Tuesday that it will withdraw from the race for the Nov. 8 elections if the government continues what the Islamists describe as undue interference in the elections process.

Ishaq al-Farhan, leader of the IAF, said a number of government "acts" had given the front grounds to doubt the "integrity of the elections."

"(The government's recent actions) give us ground to question the integrity of the elections...if these acts lead to a confrontation, and we hope they would not, the door is always open for reconsidering (our decision to participate in) the elections," Dr. al-Farhan told a press conference.

"In the past few days, some ministries and institutions have 'negatively' interfered in the elections process in a manner violating the law and depriving candidates of their constitutional and legal rights," Dr. al-Farhan said, reading from a prepared statement.

Dr. al-Farhan was referring to a decision by the Ministry of Interior rejecting an application by the IAF to hold a public rally in an open area in Marka and other public gatherings without giving a reason for the ban.

Mr. al-Farhan also cited an incident where the minister of education transferred 11 teachers and ministry officials (six of whom are active IAF members) from al-Tafilah Governorate to other districts in what the described as a bid to prevent them from campaigning for the party.

"When I met with the minister of education, Dr. Khalid al-'Umari, he told me that they will be transferred back to their original posts as soon as the elections are over," Dr. al-Farhan said.

He added that he and another member of the IAF, Hamzah Mansur, had also met twice with Minister of Interior Salamah Hammad to try to convince him to reverse the ban on public rallies, "but (the minister's) position remained unchanged."

Dr. al-Farhan said that he had requested a meeting with Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali to discuss these two issues, "and if the matter is not resolved, I will request an audience with His Majesty the King."

"In the meantime, we have our own ways of getting in touch with people and we will continue holding meetings in the party's various campaign centres and homes," he said.

The Election Law bans election campaigning and rallies in state- owned buildings and in places of worship.

Throughout the campaign leading up to the 1989 elections, the Muslim Brotherhood, at that time the only group tacitly allowed to operate as a political party, held rallies attended by thousands of supporters. Following prayers, mosque preachers delivered sermons urging people to vote for the movement's candidates.

In a national speech Oct. 12, His Majesty King Husayn called on mosque preachers not to indulge in political work at the places of worship. "...Let us leave politics outside the houses of worship, let us see to it that people inside the houses of God do not hear any language describing God's creatures...."

Dr. al-Farhan, a member of the Upper House of Parliament, called on the imams of mosques and independent Islamists running for the Nov. 8 elections to "(withdraw from the race and) make way for other candidates (from the IAF)" who have a better chance in winning "in view of the one-person, one-vote amendment, so that votes (for the Islamists) will not be scattered."

Also attending the press conference were other IAF members, including Hamman Sa'id, Hamzah Mansur and Ibrahim Zayd al-Kilani.

Dr. al-Farhan admitted that between three and nine IAF members are contesting the elections without the approval of the party's leadership, but dimissed the implication that this was a sign of a rift in the party, which remains the biggest and most organised group in the country.

"This is an organisational violation for which they will be punished. Some of them (the violators) submitted their resignation (from the party) and others are going to do so," he said.

Dr. al-Farhan also dismissed allegations that the party had asked for financial aid from neighbouring countries and went into a lengthy explanation of the budget breadown of the campaign. "We estimated that a candidate would need at least JD 5,000, depending on the district he is running in. Almost half of the IAF's 36 candidates are self-financed, except for paying advertisement costs in the local newspapers which will be taken care of by the party."

The party's 1989 campaign slogan "Islam is the solution," is used again this year with "yes," added to the beginning. it is interpreted as a clear answer to some speculations that the party has changed its strategy, which, most analysts and observers think, might have caused it to lose ground in the last four years.

Dr. al-Farhan voiced confidence that his party would do well in the polls. "We are realistic and don't expect all our candidates to win," he said.

Of the 36 candidates running on the IAF ticket, contesting seats in every district, 16 are former deputies, one of the rest had lost his bid in 1989. Others are running for the first time.

The front, the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood, has been touted as the biggest loser from the introduction of the one-person- one-vote formula into the electoral process, analysts say.

Observers say the new electoral system will deny the Brotherhood the opportunity to repeat its performance in the 1989 elections when it won a number of parliamentary seats disproportionate to its actual grass-root support through the formation of alliances with other parties and independent candidates.

In the 1989 election, the Brotherhood won 23 seats in the 80- member Lower House of Parliament, and its sympathisers, independent Islamists, won at least eight seats.

According to Dr. al-Farhan, the application of one candidate, Bassam al-'Umush (al-Zarqa'), a former professor at the University of Jordan, we rejected by the al-Zarqa' Governor on legal grounds, "although he had submitted his resignation from his post as early as Sept. 29."

"The Court of First instance is expected to rule on the issue tomorrow," he said.

The Court of First Instance in Amman Tuesday rejected contestations of two candidates: Nimr Sarhan and Salih Masanidah whose applications were earlier turned down by the Interior Ministry.

According to the court ruling, carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Sarhan, who applied for candidacy in the Fifth District, has not been a Jordanian citizen for 10 consecutive years, as stipulated in the Election Law.

Mr. Masanidah, who intended to run in the Sixth District, failed to prove that he completed 30 years of age, as also stipulated in the Election Law.

The case of columnist Hamadah Fara'inah, who the government says still retains his seat in the Palestine National Council, despite his assurances that he had resigned, is to be ruled on today.

Another application by Muhammad Abu-Rabihah (Six District) awaits a court ruling either today or Thursday. His nomination was rejected on legal grounds. No further explanation was given.

Courts Overturn Rejection of Two Candidates

JN2110142193 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21-22 Oct 93 pp 1, 5

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Suhayr 'Ubaydat]

[Text] Amman—Courts in Amman and al-Zarqa' Wednesday overturned governor's decisions barring Hamadah Fara'inah and Bassam al-'Umush from running for Parliament and said that their nominations were legal.

The Amman First Instance court ruled that Mr. Fara'inah's membership in the Palestine National Countil (PNC) did not violate the law. In the case of Mr. al-'Umush, he was able to prove that he had resigned his post at the University of Jordan within the time limit set by the law.

Amman Governor Tal'at al-Nawayisah Saturday rejected mr. Fara'inah's application on grounds that he is a member of an international organisation, the PNC of the State of Palestine, enjoying the protection of that state, and thus cannot run for a seat in Jordan's Parliament.

The court ruling, a copy of which was made available to the JORDAN TIMES, said that the PNC "is not an international organisation but a legal entity and (Fara'inah) thus is not considered a member of an international organisation." The court also ruled that Mr. Fara'inah "has been a Jordanian citizen for the last 10 years and there is nothing to prove otherwise."

The Election Law stipulates that a person running for Parliament be at the time of the candidacy a Jordanian citizen for the last 10 years and that he/she did not hold foreign citizenship or claim foreign protection.

The governor of Amman had based his rejection of Mr. Fara'inah's application on his (the governor) interpretation of the Election Law in that the PNC is "the legislative body of the State of Palestine, and (Fara'inah) is a member of an organisation in a state other than the

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and enjoys the protection of another state recognised by the Jordanian government with an embassy accredited at the Royal Hashemite Court."

In the case of Mr. al-'Umush, the al-Zarqa' court ruled that the candidate had "produced documents proving that he resigned his post at the University of Jordan on Sept. 29," and not Oct. 12 as the governor had said.

The Election Law states that government employees are not allowed to run for Parliament unless they resign their posts at least one month before the day of elections (Nov. 8).

The governor's rejection of the candidacy of Mr. al-'Umush, a member of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) running on its ticket in the al-Zarqa' Constituency prompted charges from the front that it was being targetted by the government.

Ishaq al-Fahran, the front's secretary general, Tuesday cited the rejection of Mr. al-'Umush candidacy and the government transfer of 11 Education Ministry employees who are IAF supporters from al- Tafilah to other regions of the Kingdom as part of a campaign aimed at weakening the front's chances in the coming elections.

"In the past few days, some ministries and institutions have 'negatively' intefered in the elections process in a manner violating the law and depriving candidates of their constitutional and legal rights." Dr. al-Farhan told a press conference Tuesday.

On Wednesday, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted Minister of Interior Salamah Hammad as saying that the government was keen on holding free and fair elections in an atmosphere of absolute democracy.

He said: "We are a state of law... we apply the law to the letter and will not allow (anybody) to violate it or use it for the sake of one faction on the expense of another."

He said that the transfer of the teachers was done in accordance to the law that bars civil servants from campaigning for any other candidates. He said that those teachers had violated the law.

Dr. al-Farhan had also complained during his press conference on Tuesday that the government did not allow his party to hold public rallies. To that the minister countered that candidates could campaign in cinemas, hotels, and festival halls but not in public places.

"We bare the use of public places if we had information and proof that the safety of participants could be jeopardised," he said.

So far, only the applications of two candidates, Nimr Sarhan and Salih Masanidah, were rejected. Their cotestations were rejected by the Amman First Instnace Court because Mr. Sarhan, who applied for candidacy int he First District, has not been a Jordanian citizen for 10 consecutive years.

Mr. Masanidah, who intended to run in the Sixth District, failed to prove that he completed 30 years of age as stipulated by the Election Law.

Shair al-Rawashidah, a candidated in al-Karak governorate, Wednesday withdrew his nomination and the withdrawal was accepted by the governor of al-Karak, Petra said. No reason was given for the withdrawal.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Musa Pays Visit

Prime Minister Receives Musa

JN2110144293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400GMT 21 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received at his office today Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. Attending the meeting was Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, the minister of state for foreign affairs.

Discussions at the meeting dealt with fraternal bilateral relations, the current Arab situation, and the Middle East peace process. Inter-Arab relations were also discussed and the two sides emphasized that all efforts should be made to rebuild Arab relations and realize Arab reconciliation in the service of the greater interests of the Arab nation.

The meeting was attended by Nayif al-Qadi, the newly appointed Jordanian ambassador to Egypt, and Wajih Hamdi, the Egyptian ambassador in Amman. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Receives Musa

JN2110171593 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa at the Royal Hashemite Court today. The meeting was attended by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan.

Discussions at the meeting dealt with various bilateral and regional issues. Emphasis was put on Arab coordination, particularly on the peace process and ways of bolstering it and maintaining its momentum in order to reach a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Talks also dealt with the need to clear the Arab atmosphere and unify ranks and positions in order to strengthen the united Arab stand and to preserve the interests of the nation and the future generations.

The meeting was attended by Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, the prime minister; al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, the Royal Hashemite Court chief; Yanal Hikmat, adviser to his majesty the king; Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, the minister of state for foreign affairs; Nayif al-Qadi, the newly appointed Jordanian ambassador to Egypt; and the Egyptian ambassador in Amman.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Amman this evening at the end of a visit to Jordan that lasted for several hours.

King, Musa Issue Statements

NC2110170293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1512 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Statements by Jordan's King Husayn and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa following their meeting in Amman on 21 October by an unidentified member of the Cairo radio team accompanying the Egyptian foreign minister on his visit to Jordan—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Your Majesty, will you say something to Cairo radio on this occasion?

[Husayn] This occasion is a good sign. The meeting was the result of my contact with His Excellency President Husni Mubarak a few days ago, and my request to him to send one of our brothers in order to discuss all new developments and current important issues on the road of coordination and cooperation for what is beneficial. Praise be to God, the talks we had showed that our positions are identical on all issues in preparation for our meeting after the safe return of his excellency the president, God Willing, from his forthcoming journey.

[Correspondent] What is Your Majesty's assessment of the situation in the Middle East in light of the positive steps taken in the peace process?

[Husayn] The situation is a cause for optimism. It requires more efforts and work from all of us for the sake of the future of the coming generations.

[Correspondent] Regarding the Arab situation, is Your Majesty satisfied with the coordination that is taking place now and is it enough to retrieve full Arab rights?

[Husayn] I hope that we will continue with our work so that the coordination will be at the desired level. The existing coordination cannot satisfy us, but we hope to work to achieve more, God willing.

[Correspondent] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, following your talks with His Majesty King Husayn, Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al- Majali, and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal al-Hasan, what are the important results of today's talks?

[Musa] The talks dealt with the coordination within the framework of the peace process, specifically on the Palestinian- Israeli track, which requires a follow-up by Egypt and Jordan, and also on the other tracks. We also discussed the [word indistinct] peace process on the Syrian, Lebanese, Jordanian, and Palestinian tracks with Israel. We talked about the situation in the Arab world in general, a number of related problems, and bilateral relations. We discussed the possibility of holding the meeting of the higher joint committee at an early date to be agreed on. Continuing the consultations within the context of the peace process is necessary, as is discussion of the situation in the Arab world. This situation is discussed by any two Arabs when they meet at any and every level. It is natural to touch on this matter in our discussions. We hope that the Jordanian and Egyptian backing for the Palestinian-Israeli peace process will continue and hope that there will be progress in the peace process on the other tracks. It is clear that there is progress in the Palestinian-Israeli and Jordanian-Israeli tracks. We are now working to make progress on the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Lebanese tracks. Egypt's diplomacy is active in all these directions.

State Minister Views Musa Visit

NC2210082893 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Telephone interview with Talal al-Hasan, Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs, in Amman, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo, within the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Good morning and welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Hasan] Thank you.

[Abu-al-Majd] Could you tell us about the most important topics you discussed with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa during his lightning visit to Amman yesterday?

[Al-Hasan] First, let met express my great pleasure at receiving brother Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa in Amman. I had a rare opportunity to review several issues with my brother 'Amr, most importantly, the peace process and Jordan's role in it and the reaffirmation of Jordan's firm position and commitment to both the bilateral and multilateral tracks of the peace process. It was also a good opportunity to focus on bilateral relations between Egypt and Jordan, highlight the good steps taken in the past, try to take similar steps, and explore the prospects for reconvening the Egyptian-Jordanian joint economic and trade committee as well as the higher joint committee. The talks provided an opportunity to deepen bilateral understanding in the various areas. The meeting provided a rare opportunity to reemphasize the desire of the two countries and the two leaderships to continue to develop cooperation in every field.

[Abu-al-Majd] Minister, the visit follows a recent telephone conversation between His Majesty King Husayn and President Mubarak, precedes President Mubarak's departure for Washington and Paris to hold talks with the U.S. and French officials, and follows President Mubarak's talks in Jeddah with the custodian of the two holy mosques. Do we understand from this that something is being prepared at the Arab level to be given to President Mubarak to submit to the U.S. Administration or to highlight specific Arab positions on the peace process?

[Al-Hasan] His majesty the king received the Egyptian foreign minister. They discussed topical issues and developments at length, primarily the peace process and bilateral relations. The brothers know that His Majesty King Husayn has always been eager to back whatever could consolidate Arab ties, restore Arab cohesion and solidarity, and upgrade inter-Arab coordination to the desired level. His Majesty King Husayn stressed all these issues and, naturally, this gave new momentum to bilateral relations, including a revision of the economic and trade ties and the possibility of convening the joint committees between the two countries. Naturally, inter-Arab relations occupied part of the discussion between King Husayn and 'Amr Musa. We hope that every meeting, this one in particular, will contribute toward closer inter-Arab ties and coordination now and in the future.

[Abu-al-Majd] Your Excellency, you mentioned Arab coordination and efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere. Can we understand that Egypt and Jordan are drawing up plans for the next stage to clear the Arab climate and help us to understand that the Joint Higher Jordanian-Egyptian Committee will meet as scheduled?

[Al-Hasan] As I said, Jordan under his majesty the king has always sought to support anything that could restore Arab cohesion, elevate Arab solidarity, and achieve the joint Arab interest. Naturally, Arab solidarity and restoring inter-Arab relations must form part of the effort started by Jordan and Egypt. The meeting provided an opportunity for conducting consultations on this issue and for laying the sound basis that would help inter-Arab relations forge ahead and restore them to their previous status. It will also help restore bilateral and collective relations. I may focus here on the bilateral Egyptian-Jordanian meeting in Amman. We hope the joint committee will convene soon to help strengthen bilateral relations in the various fields.

[Abu-al-Majd] The talks Dennis Ross had in Jordan preceded those of Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. Did Ross propose anything new to you on the Jordanian-Israeli track and the other tracks? Did you convey to him any Jordanian demands concerning the peace process?

[Al-Hasan] We held lengthy talks with Dennis Ross, the special U.S. coordinator, and his delegation during their visit to Jordan. The talks revolved around the entire peace process and around Jordan's role in it. Naturally, our talks also dealt with the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, which we hope will constitute a first step toward achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region. We reiterated Jordan's support for the agreement in practice. We also discussed issues relating to the peace process. We voiced Jordan's support and constants regarding the peace process, including the comprehensive solution and hopes of achieving progress on every track—Jordanian, Syrian, and Lebanese.

[Abu-al-Majd] Thank you, Your Excellency.

[Al-Hasan] You are welcome.

Egypt's Reconciliation Efforts Hailed

JN2210101693 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Oct 93 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "Welcomed Endeavors"]

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's visit and meetings with senior officials, headed by His Majesty King Husayn, constitute part of the active Arab diplomatic moves to clear political Arab atmospheres from past defects to pave the way for restoring the aspired reconciliation among brothers.

We welcome 'Amr Musa's visit and deem it a practical and tangible proof of Egypt's determination to play a constructive role in the Arab world. We also hope that the current diplomatic action will be encouraged and supported. Moreover, we wish that all brothers will respond positively to this constructive Egyptian endeavor.

Undoubtedly, Egypt, given its good relations with all Arab capitals, is more qualified than any other one to play this reconciliatory role among brothers, who all highly respect and appreciate Egypt, and who are all aware of the fact that Cairo has the ability to restore cohesion to Arab ranks.

'Amr Musa's talks with the senior officials focused on the restoration of inter-Arab relations, on discussing pan-Arab issues, and achieving the long-awaited reconciliation, which is now necessitated by several factors, particularly the requirements of the current peace process.

We are optimistic about the current diplomatic efforts, which are being exerted on various levels, to clear the Arab atmosphere and restore Arab solidarity. We are also confident that all Arab brothers are now more aware of the importance of closing ranks, settling differences, and ignoring bitter experiences in favor of the nation's higher interests, and in service of its great objectives and just pan-Arab issues.

Qatari Amir's Brother Arrives in Amman on Visit

JN2010135593 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Hamad Al Thani, brother of his highness the amir of the sisterly State of Qatar, arrived in Amman this morning on a three-day visit to Jordan.

During the visit, the brother of the Qatari amir will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials.

He was received by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali; Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs; and a number of senior officials at the Foreign Ministry.

Al-Majali Receives Amir's Brother

JN2010182293 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali discussed with visiting Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Hamad Al Thani, the brother of the amir of Qatar, the situation in the region and bilateral relations.

Dr. al-Majali said that the visit would enhance Jordanian-Qatari brotherly ties, the foundations of which were laid by His Majesty King Husayn and Qatar's Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani.

The Qatari official paid tribute to Jordan's development in all aspects, commending the distinctive ties between the two countries.

The minister of state for foreign affairs attended the meeting as well as the delegation accompanying the Qatari official.

King, Yemen's Salih Discuss 'Democratic March'

JN2110185993 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received a telephone call this evening from His Excellency 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic of Yemen.

The two leaders discussed various bilateral and regional issues and latest developments of the peace process. They also exchanged views on latest developments of the democratic march in sisterly Yemen.

Foreign Debt Accord Signed With Switzerland

JN2210071093 Amman Radio Jordan in English 2000 GMT 21 Oct 93

[From the "News at Ten"]

[Text] Jordan and Switzerland signed an agreement on the reduction of Jordan's external debt and linked it to the creation of a counterpart fund in local currency. Jordan's external debt to Switzerland, which amounts to 16.5 million dinars, would be extinguished in full. The external debt will be converted into local currency at a certain rate that would generate a counterpart fund of around 4.5 million dinars. The fund would be used to finance development projects and programs in the country.

The debt reduction would help ease the economic and social burden Jordan faces as well as contribute to the adjustment process Jordan is undertaking.

Al-Asad, al-Shar' Meet U.S. Envoy Ross

JN2110172593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] At 1700 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Dennis Ross, the U.S. Middle East peace process coordinator, and his delegation. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar', Syrian ambassador in Washington Walid al-Mu'allim, and U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Christopher Ross.

Earlier today, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Dennis Ross. The meeting was attended by Yusuf Shakkur, the assistant foreign minister; Walid al-Mu'allim, the Syrian ambassador in Washington; Martin Indyk, the White House Middle East affairs adviser; and Christopher Ross, the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

Dennis Ross briefed Faruq al-Shar' on the results of his tour of the region. The talks focused on the peace process and ways of removing the obstacles facing the realization of a just, comprehensive solution based on international legitimacy and the Madrid formula.

Mr. Ross reaffirmed the U.S. Administration's commitment to continue extensive efforts to achieve a just, comprehensive peace.

Following the meeting, Mr. Ross made a statement to journalists in which he said: We have started our talks well. We have had an opportunity to begin talks about what is taking place and what I have been informed of during my visit to Damascus.

Ross Conveys Clinton Message

JN2210074693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0715 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] At 1700 last night, President Hafiz al-Asad received Dennis Ross, the U.S. Middle East peace process coordinator, and his delegation. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Syrian Ambassador in Washington Walid al-Mu'allim, and U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Christopher Ross.

Ross conveyed a message to the president from U.S. President Bill Clinton. The message deals with the Middle East peace process and the U.S. Administration's commitment to continue efforts to reach a comprehensive solution.

Ross briefed the president on the results of his tour of the region and his talks with the officials in the countries he visited. Discussion at the meeting dealt with the peace process and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region next month.

Dennis Ross, the U.S. Middle east peace process coordinator, left Damascus today, concluding a visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Syrian ambassador in Washington, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

Papers Discuss Ross Tour, Syria's Stand

JN2210090493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Press review]

[Text] Our papers' political commentaries and analyses today focus on Syria's positive and effective role in the peace process and its emphasis on the comprehensive and just solution, and on Israeli obstruction of the just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Under the headline "Syria Provided Chances, Israel Obstructs," AL-BA'TH says: Syria made clear its position on peace when it made the Madrid conference a reality and pledged to support all international efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East.

The paper notes President al-Asad's interview with the U.S. media, stressing that the president presented a clear picture of Syria's policy, which considers international legitimacy and the U.S. initiatives and pledges the means to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The paper says: The world discovered in Madrid who actually rejects peace. It became clear that Israel was maneuvering and seeking to deceive everyone under the pretext that the Arabs are offering a peace that has no clear foundations.

The paper adds: The Arabs' goal in the peace process is to reach the comprehensive, just, and lasting peace. This is what was pledged by the United States, the principal sponsor of peace efforts. However, Israel, which evades the just peace and its dues, sought to deal separately with one of the Arab parties involved in the peace process. Israel is now trying to deceive the world into believing that Syria is obstructing the peace efforts. Israel's attempts to deceive the world are futile, because Syria's acceptance of the Madrid Conference has made it possible to convene that conference, and Syria's agreeing to hold talks in Washington have given the world a hope of reaching peace in the region.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: Therefore, peace in the region cannot be achieved unless it was guaranteed by Syria, and this fact is acknowledged by Western states. We do not think that bypassing the principled position of Arab Syria will help achieve the peace and security which the region is longing for.

AL-THAWRAH discusses the tour by Dennis Ross, U.S. peace talks coordinator, to the region in an attempt to end the difficult stalemate reached by the peace process because of Israel's intransigence and constant rejection of the just and comprehensive peace.

AL-THAWRAH notes what Ross has said to the effect that his country is committed to the achievement of progress on the Syrian-Israeli track in order to reach a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East.

The paper says: This link, which the U.S. envoy emphasized, between the need for progress on the Syrian track and the comprehensive settlement reveals the importance of this track for the future of peace. It also reveals the soundness and seriousness of the Syrian position on this process and its objectives. Since the start of the peace process and throughout all the rounds of talks, Syria has had a clear position based on international legitimacy, right, and justice.

AL-THAWRAH adds: When Syria stresses the importance of a just and comprehensive solution, it is because any other solution will not help peace or the peace process. Instead, any other solution will completely obstruct the peace process because it will not be based on the foundations of justice and comprehensiveness, specified by complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and acknowledging the Palestinian people's national inalienable rights. It will also contradict the bases of the peace formula, the foundations of international legitimacy and its resolutions that pertain to the conflict, and the principle embodied by these resolutions; namely, the exchange of land for peace.

AL-THAWRAH notes that despite all this clarity in the Syrian position, Israel has since the start of the peace process been pursuing a negative attitude based on abusing the peace process and its objective and employing all ways and means to marginalize the international concept of peace, escape the Madrid formula, and turn the peace process into an end and not the means to achieve peace.

AL-THAWRAH concludes its commentary by saying: The U.S. and world efforts have confronted Israeli obstacles throughout the various stages of the peace talks. The current U.S. effort, which is confronting the same Israeli obstacle now, should at this stage remove that obstacle in order to end the stalemate in the peace process. This can only be achieved by pressing Israel into abandoning its intransigent policy, moving immediately to resolve the problems it fabricated on the Syrian track, and taking a serious position on the peace process that is based on open and unambiguous acceptance of the just peace and comprehensive solution.

In another commentary on the same subject, AL-THAWRAH says: It seems that the Rabin government is deliberately seeking to strengthen the impression that it is not interested in Ross's tour in the region and in seeing him achieve tangible results and facts that can justify holding another round of peace talks.

The paper says: Israel wanted to make the Gaza-Jericho Agreement the finale and the end of the road. The paper adds: Despite the fact that Israel is trying to deceive the world into believing that it is preoccupied with talks with the Palestinians and is devoting all efforts to implement the self-rule agreement as a pretext to evade the other tracks, particularly the associated tracks—the Lebanese and Syrian tracks—the talks currently going on in Taba have thus far failed to achieve anything to benefit the Palestinian people and their national rights.

The paper notes that the U.S. envoy's mission in occupied Palestine has not produced any unexpected results. The statements and the no's reaffirmed by Israeli leaders—no to withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories or return to the 1967 borders—confirm that Israel is not actually interested in the comprehensive and just peace.

Press on Peace Stance, Cooperation With U.S.

JN2110132093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0547 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Syria is very sincere in its efforts to achieve peace. It has decisively contributed to launching the peace process. Its desire for peace will continue despite all games and maneuvers. Anyone who seeks a just and comprehensive peace will find every positive cooperation from Syria.

AL-BA'TH adds: The Israeli rulers' actions, which are aimed at turning the peace process into an Arab capitulation to their demands to impose their control and hegemony on the Arab homeland, its resources, and waters, do not show a true desire for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace which is acceptable to the people. This must not be a peace that encroaches on their sovereignty and freedom and it must protect their national heritage.

AL-BA'TH explains that if Israel's rulers are really serious about peace, they must be courageous and announce their acceptance of the international legitimacy, its resolutions, and all the requirements of the land for peace formula; most important of which is announcing their readiness to withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories so that the door can open to discuss issues which result from peace, but can never precede it.

AL-BA'TH stresses that cooperation, which existed between Syria and the United States to launch the peace process, and lay down its bases and its framework, was a positive and useful cooperation, whose objective was clearly defined. This cooperation, if it continues to follow this course, can greatly help push the peace process forward, especially since the U.S. Administration's continuous commitment to the peace process and its goal makes it dutybound to use its special relations with Israel to persuade it to redress the peace process and to make Israel's rulers accept what they should eventually accept—to make the peace process achieve its aspired objective.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Only by doing so, will Washington prove its commitment to achieving progress

on all tracks. Proof is essential regarding the responsibility of achieving a just and comprehensive settlement and establishing a genuine and durable peace in the Middle East.

TISHRIN writes on the obstacle Israel places before the peace process, and its attempts to drag the Arabs to further capitulation, concessions, and relinquishment of their rights, and to make them fall in the trap of partial solutions and separate deals with the objective of weakening them and undermining their unified pan-Arab position.

TISHRIN says: Israel exposes its intentions and objectives when it links what it seeks to achieve through its partial deals with Arab parties to its reiteration that it will not withdraw to the pre-5 June 1967 border. This means that it does not want a true peace that moves the region from tension to stability. Nor does it want to respond to the pillars of peace stipulated by the resolutions of the international legitimacy and the U.S. initiatives which call for the Israeli forces' withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, and to achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

TISHRIN notes: While exerting political effort to reactivate the peace process and to achieve progress in it, the United States undoubtedly possesses the conditions and pillars for the success of these efforts, especially since it is committed to its initiative, which is based on the land for peace principle, and concerned about playing the full partner role and honest broker. America also realizes, and it has directly seen this, that Syria is sincere in its efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace based on its concern about making the region experience an era of stability and security away from occupation, injustice, and aggression.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Syria adheres to its rights and land. It will not relinquish an inch of this land or an iota of these rights. Syria has responded positively to U.S. efforts and endeavors to achieve peace. It pointed out that the road to peace is clear and begins with ending the occupation, because there will be no peace with the continuation of occupation or even some of it. Peace must be just and comprehensive.

AL-THAWRAH notes that Syria's concern about securing the appropriate conditions for the success of the peace process springs from its desire to try all means to restore usurped Arab rights and land and to achieve a just solution to the Palestine question. Syria adheres to its noble and principled rejection of the continuation of any form of injustice and occupation in the region. It also adheres to the peace process as a precious opportunity that must eventually lead to the termination of occupation, the liberation of the land, and the elimination of all factors of tension and explosion which threaten the region with further wars and tragedies.

AL-THAWRAH points to Israel's provocative refusal to abide by the essence of the U.S. initiative, and its insistence on imposing incomplete peace without making any clear promise to withdraw from all occupied Arab territories.

AL-THAWRAH says: If Israel continues with this stand, U.S. efforts will not be expected to bring fruit, and the peace process will not make any step forward. One must be aware of this fact, and Washington should take it into consideration if it really wants to save the peace process from its impasse.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Washington knows full well that peace is possible despite all existing difficulties. All that it takes is only to persuade Israel to implement UN resolutions and to announce its clear readiness to withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories. Only then will peace hopes be revived, and doors will open wide for the possibilities of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Iran

Deputy Foreign Minister Views Talks in Iraq

NC2210082593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Our deputy foreign minister for international affairs, who has visited Iraq, returned to Tehran last night after several rounds of talks with his Iraqi counterpart.

The Central News Unit reports that Javad Zarif described the outcome of his discussions with Iraqi officials as positive and said: During this visit, the agenda of the talks between the two countries' foreign ministers was discussed; these talks will continue during next month's visit by the Iraqi deputy foreign minister to Tehran.

Referring to his meeting with the Iraqi foreign minister, he said: During this meeting we discussed the issue of the Iranian MIA's and POW's who are in Iraq, as well as the obstacles to the full implementation of UN Resolution 598. Commenting on the Islamic Republic's plan for the exchange of the remaining POW's from both sides, the deputy foreign minister said: We believe that both countries should study various methods to solve the problem of the MIA's and of the registered and unregistered POW's. He stressed that the solution to this problem is contingent on the Iraqi officials' goodwill.

Zarif also commented on the talks about a number of Iraqi civilian aircraft in Iran, saying: On the basis of our international commitments, we consider the return of Iraqi civilian aircraft to be contingent on the lifting of the UN sanctions of Iraq.

Our deputy foreign minister for international affairs added: Mr. Velayati will visit Baghdad after the Iraqi deputy foreign minister's visit to Tehran, after which the Iraqi foreign minister will also come to Tehran.

Zarif added: During this round of talks, ways of sending pilgrims to the holy shrines in both countries were also discussed.

Majles Official on Iran-Iraq Relations

NC2210090393 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 7 Oct 93 pp 1, 3

[Report on interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Ahmad Salek, head of the Majles defense committee and Esfahan deputy, with unidentified ABRAR correspondent in Tehran; date not given—quotes as published]

[Text] "Iran's enemies are trying to weaken Iran, but with the support of our people and the wise guidance of our leadership, we aim to preserve our reputation in the face of our enemies and we fear no one."

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin added: "Our enemies seek to prevent us from obtaining our lawful objectives and constantly hatch plots. Sometimes they propagate Iran's efforts to construct a nuclear power plant for nonmilitary use, as if Iran is trying to manufacture an atom bomb. At other times, they talk of enormous ordnance purchases by Iran."

He said: We will never enter into an arms race with regional countries. Our total defense budget in 1993 was $850 million, while Saudi Arabia purchased military equipment worth $17.5 billion and the Persian Gulf countries' defense budget in this period was $200 billion.

The Esfahan Majles deputy stated that every country has the right to defend itself against attack and should always be ready. He said: Islamic Iran is a capable force in the region and considers procuring military equipment to be necessary for safeguarding its territorial integrity.

He added: "Our enemies see the existence of a powerful Iran as an obstacle to their objectives, and their propaganda aims to generate pessimism among our people. We expect nothing else from our enemies, even though they have seen that we are not involved in such purchases or production."

Referring to relations between Iran and Iraq, the head of the Islamic Majles defense committee said: Iran and Iraq have long social, cultural, and religious ties and, based on our beliefs, we greatly favor bilateral relations.

He alluded to the United States and its allies' apprehension about ties between the Iranian and Iraqi nations and their not wanting conditions that would help to establish an Islamic government in the region. This is why their ploy is to set up nationalist governments in the region. But they should rest assured that the Iranian and Iraqi people will never abandon their common religious beliefs.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Salek added: Recently, we initiated talks on Resolution 598 to be followed up by the foreign ministers of the two countries and Dr. Velayati will soon visit Baghdad. These talks will continue until Iran's rights are achieved.

Commenting on the issues of border problems between Iran and Iraq and the payment of reparation, the head of the Islamic Majles defense committee said: Our people and officials believe the resolution should be implemented clause by clause. We have no territorial problems with Iraq, and most of the issues have been resolved. Some concerns, such as the POW's and the payment of reparations, have not been sorted out by Iraq, and these will be discussed at the foreign minister level in their next meeting.

PRC Envoy Views Nuclear Tests, Other Issues

NC2210100093 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 11 Oct 93 pp 1, 8

["Exclusive" interview with Hua Li Ming, the PRC ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran, by an unidentified ABRAR correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [ABRAR] What do you think about four countries that have nuclear capability criticizing the PRC's nuclear tests?

[Li Ming] The PRC has always displayed great restraint over nuclear testing, and such tests have been very restricted. The PRC's intention in having and developing a few nuclear weapons is solely for its own defense. [passage omitted]

[ABRAR] Recently, the PRC boosted its relations with neighboring countries such as Vietnam and ASEAN members. What will this do for Asia and the PRC in particular? In view of the Beijing-New Delhi contacts and the traditional friendly relations between the PRC and Pakistan, could the PRC participate in an attempt to improve bilateral relations on the Kashmir issue?

[Li Ming] The PRC's foreign policy is independent and peaceful stemming from the internal situation in the PRC, which is in the throes of reconstruction. We must use all our resources to rebuild our country. This is why we need a friendly atmosphere between us and our neighbors, even among the neighboring countries. [passage omitted]

Of course, we have traditional friendly relations with Pakistan, but we want friendly relations with both Pakistan and India. The PRC can mediate by maintaining friendly relations with both countries. But in view of their bilateral talks, I think there will be no need for mediation.

[ABRAR] My next question concerns the pressure exerted by individual Northern countries on the Southern ones. For example, look at Somalia, Pakistan, and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Could there be long-term cooperation in Asia among the PRC and India—the largest and most densely populated countries of the Asian continent—and Iran and Pakistan to counteract the North? If so, what would be the outcome?

[Li Ming] Unfortunately, with the collapse of the bipolar system, the United States considers itself the self-styled policeman and referee in most cases. This policy harms international peace and security. We saw this in the Yinhe incident. We, the countries of the South, face these problems. We are not trying to carve out an enemy in our relations with the United States. We favor normal ties with it and don't want relations to be strained. But this should not jeopardize the independence, prestige, or sovereignty of the PRC.

I imagine that several countries in the South face this problem. We live in a heterogeneous world, in which countries are capitalist, socialist, Islamic, non-Islamic, black, and white-skinned. This is a fact we are forced to accept. No one can consider his own values to be universal and force them on other countries.

We accept no one as an international referee or policeman. The countries of the North want to use their economic levers to impose their specific values forcibly on others, but we cannot accept this. We have had wonderful cooperation with Iran at the UN General Assembly and in other international institutions. We have many points in common with Iran on international issues, and we have had remarkable cooperation in this respect.

[ABRAR] You said the United States considers itself an international referee and a policeman and the PRC does not want strained relations with it as long as its prestige and independence are not harmed. If the United States does something that violates your independence, how will you react?

[Li Ming] Such an example would be that involving the vessel Yinhe. The issue of human rights is also important to the PRC; one of the objectives of the PRC's revolution has been to revive human rights.

If it were only the issue of human rights, we would be ready to discuss it and to assess its implementation worldwide, even in the United States. But no country has the right to use human rights as an instrument to achieve its political objectives. On human rights, we stress the principle of nonintervention in others' internal affairs. [passage omitted]

The Yinhe incident tarnished the United States' reputation instead of jeopardizing the PRC's prestige. The United States was disgraced in this incident and in the words of the Iranians: He who digs a well for others, falls into it himself. The United States was in disgrace when the result of the inspection of the Yinhe was made public.

Of course, it is the nature of a superpower to demand that everyone should consider it superior, but this is something the PRC and Iran oppose.

[ABRAR] The United States suffered a defeat over the Yinhe incident. But, according to U.S. officials, the United States considers the PRC an enemy and seeks to exert pressure on it. The question is: Where does the red line begin for the PRC? In such a case, do you think the U.S. attitude toward your country will continue?

[Li Ming] First, I should state that they ought not to consider the PRC an enemy, as the PRC is a peaceloving country. We are more of an introverted [dorun gera] country and are deeply involved in our own internal affairs. Our sole aim is to foster our people's welfare. This is a major service to people everywhere and to the cause of world peace, as the population of the PRC is a fifth of that of the world.

No country, certainly not the United States, should consider the PRC an enemy. The PRC will never seek to dominate the region or the world like some other hegemonistic countries. This impression is only projected by some ignorant individuals or for political motives to intimidate the PRC's neighboring countries.

As for the red line you mentioned, the PRC has a principle: To safeguard independence, peace, and national sovereignty. When a country wants to trample this principle underfoot, the PRC will react. [passage omitted]

Habibi Congratulates Pakistani Prime Minister

LD2110220093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] First Vice President Habibi, in a message to Benazir Bhutto, congratulated her on her election as prime minister of the brother republic of Pakistan.

In the message, hope was expressed that the two countries' friendly relations—which are rooted in their deep common religion, culture, and history—will strengthen day by day and expand constantly through political will and mutual cooperation.

Turkish Trucks To Need Permits To Enter Iran

LD2110221893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Excerpt] As of 1 November, foreign trucks entering Iran must have permits from the Islamic Republic. Exceptions to the case are trucks from countries that have agreements with the Islamic Republic and that have accepted mutual permit-free traffic of trucks between their countries.

According to the deputy minister of roads and transport in charge of land transport: On the basis of the decision, Turkish trucks should also have Iranian permits to enter the country.

The deputy also said that the number of Turkish trucks using Iranian roads is five times the number of Iranian trucks using roads in Turkey. Taking into consideration the good-neighborly relations with Turkey, Iran has not until now levied any tariffs on Turkish trucks and has provided them with Iranian-priced fuel, he said. [passage omitted]

New Embassy To Open in Macedonia

LD2110192193 Tehran IRNA in English 1836 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Belgrade, Oct. 21, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran is to open an embassy in Skopje, capital of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, diplomatic sources told IRNA Thursday.

The new chief-of-mission is expected to arrive early next week.

Iran is the second country of Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) after Turkey to open a mission in Macedonia, a southern republic bordering on Bulgaria, Greece and Albania, with over a 40 per cent Muslim population.

"We think there are good opportunities for developing economic relations which flourished when Macedonia was part of Yugoslavia," an Iranian diplomat said. "It is situated in an important part of the Balkans. We need to have contact with all the former Yugoslav republics."

European countries, apart from Belgium, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands, have been slow to recognize the new state, due to opposition from Greece which has a northern region called Macedonia with a Slav minority.

Although recognized by the UN, its position is vulnerable because of Greek hostility and Serb pretensions to its territory.

Relations with the Serb minority (2.30 per cent) are frequently strained.

The new state—the only one to leave Yugoslavia without bloodshed in 1992—covers an area of 25,713 square kilometres and has a population of about 2 million. Apart from Orthodox Macedonians and Albanians, it has several minorities, including Turks.

Some 100 UN troops are stationed in Macedonia to monitor violations of the trade embargo against Serbia-Montenegro, imposed because of their role in the war in Bosnia.

The region is a developing one, with a low per capita income. It has, however, important metal deposits and under the communist regime, industry and mining dominated the economy. Nowadays, Macedonia relies chiefly on agriculture, with cash crops of tobacco and cotton.

IRNA Apology to Rowhani for 'Ambiguities'

NC2210102693 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 9 Oct 93 p 2

[Text] News agencies objected after IRNA presented an ambiguous report on an interview with the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council [SNSC] by the AUSTRIAN NEWS AGENCY.

Last night, IRNA sent a telex apologizing to Dr. Rowhani. The text is as follows:

Tehran, IRNA:

Concerning the interview with the SNSC secretary Dr. Rowhani by the AUSTRIAN NEWS AGENCY: Since the IRNA correspondent wasn't there and didn't know what questions were asked, the Austrian agency version of the interview created ambiguities. IRNA hereby apologizes to His Excellency Dr. Rowhani.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI footnote] Now that it transpires that IRNA was responsible for the doubts generated about the stance of Iranian officials on the 'Arafat-Israel compromise, by citing the SNSC secretary's interview so ambiguously, IRNA's management should supervise things more carefully to prevent such bitter incidents from recurring. Such oversights should not allow Iran's enemies' propaganda loudspeakers to cast doubts over the clear and overt stances of the system with their strong, venomous words. IRNA has a brilliant

record of serving the Islamic revolution. Such incidents should not be allowed to tarnish its reputation and portray it as inattentive.

Commerce Minister on Ending Customs Duties

LD2110203493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Commerce Minister Ale Eshaq has announced: According to this year's [Iranian year beginning 21 March 1993] law on export-import regulations—which has been approved by the Guardian Council—the customs tariffs and duties for imports have been eliminated and only a commercial benefit tax will be levied from importers.

According to Eshaq, the Ministry of Commerce has to reduce customs duty to zero within eight months and calculate and set the commercial benefit tax by taking into consideration the prevailing conditions of the time and on the basis of the floating hard currency.

He pointed out: The implementation of the regulations will make our industry officials pay more attention to production and investment.

Aqazadeh on Investment in Oil, Natural Gas

LD2110170893 Tehran IRNA in English 1512 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Saveh, Central Prov., Oct. 21, IRNA—Iran's Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh said here Thursday that during the current Iranian year (started March 21) rls. 2,500,000 million are being invested in the oil sector and rls. 700,000 million in gas sector.

Aqazadeh, who is here to inaugurate a gas supply project, said that investment in the petrochemical sector will be made through the advance sale of petrochemical products. He added that once Arak petrochemical complex becomes operational, its products will meet the needs of domestic factories, which at present are being imported.

Aqazadeh put the number of cities supplied with natural gas for the household use at 173 and said the figure is expected to reach 200 by the end of this year, March 20, 1994. Rls. 2,570,000 million has been spent for implementation of the gas supply project of Mamuniyeh City, near this provincial city.

Official on Program For Expansion of Ports

LD2110175093 Tehran IRNA in English 1517 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Bushehr, IRNA—The total capacity of Iranian ports will rise to 40 million tons annually within the next five years, Managing Director of the Ports and Shipping Organization Mohammad Madad said here Thursday. He said that five million tons of goods are expected to be transited to the Central Asian countries by the end of the said period. This year, the official said, some rls. 110,000 million have been allocated to the development of ports, adding that the necessary equipment have already been purchased from abroad.

Within the next five years, five multi-purpose ports will be set up in Khark, Kangan, Bandar-e 'Abbas, Pasa Banda (southern Iran) and Fereydun Kenar (northern Iran). The ports and shipping organization chief said that 2.3 million tons of goods have been exported abroad via various Iranian ports in the first half of the current year (March-August, 93). The figure was double that of last year, he added.

In the said period, Madad said, some seven million tons of goods were unloaded at Iranian ports, down by 15 percent, compared to the corresponding period last year.